



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

January 2023

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Prevalence and significance of illegal trade in the cactus and succulent collector community: evidence from qualitative and quantitative research

Presented by Jared Margulies
 Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Alabama

While illegal wildlife trade (IWT) represents a serious threat to biodiversity globally, research into the prevalence of illegal plant collection and trade remains scarce. Cacti and succulents are known as heavily threatened by over-collection for often illegal, international ornamental trade. In my talk I will present data and evidence from a recent study published in Conservation Biology drawing on a large survey conducted in 2021 on the succulent hobbyist collector community, as well as my forthcoming book on illicit cactus and succulent trade based on ethnographic research I have conducted within cactus and succulent collector communities since 2017. Aims of this research included understanding collector perspectives on the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the threats IWT poses to cactus and succulent conservation, and how the collector community can better support cactus and succulent conservation efforts worldwide to avoid species extinctions.

Jared Margulies is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Alabama. He is a human-environment geographer whose work focuses on the politics of wildlife conservation, trade, and the commodification and management of wildlife. His book, *The Cactus Hunters: Desire and Extinction in the Illicit Succulent Trade*, will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in October 2023. He has published in a variety of academic journals including Conservation Biology, Environmental Humanities, Political Geography, World Development, The Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Geoforum, Conservation and Society, and the Journal of Political Ecology. He received his PhD in Geography in 2017 from UMBC in Baltimore, MD, which was supported in part by a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship in India. He received his Master's degree in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Management from the University of Oxford in 2010. From 2017-2019, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield, UK.

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 highly encouraged but not required). 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, please enjoy excellent refreshments provided by our member volunteers and also, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



Turbinicarpus



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

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



President's Message

Thank you for re-electing a great team to lead this Society. Thank you to all the officers and board members for their service and support for this Society. Since the late 1990's I have had the great pleasure of working with Vonn Watkins. He has been president, immediate past president and vice president since 2005. Vonn has been in charge of monthly programs, Sonoran Conference programs, CSSA convention programs in 2009, and more including being one of founders of our Rescue Program along with Chris Monrad, Lois Ladwig and me. He and I had the hair brain idea for Pima Prickly Park and he has worked hard to make it a success. We have worked as a team for almost 25 years and what a great privilege to call him my friend.

The goal of this Society is: Knowing, Growing and Showing everything we can about cacti and other succulent plants for the benefit of you, our members, and the public. I always want your input and ideas of how to make TCSS more meaningful.

We have a lot of projects in the pipeline and always need your help and support. The officers and board will create an agenda of activities for the next 2 years so you know what to expect from us and in what you would like to participate.

See you at our January 5, meeting in person or online and at the New Year Sale on January 8.

Have a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

The Desert

Book Review
By Brian Vandervoet

Acknowledged as an art historian, John C. Van Dyke's paean to our southwest lands has long been recognized as one of the primary sources of literature for the desert. Librarian Lawrence Clark Powell recognized it as one of his Southwest Classics. In 1979, the Northland Press of Flagstaff, AZ. issued its first Occasional Broadside with an excerpt entitled "Desert, Sky and Clouds" from Van Dyke's masterpiece.

Published in 1901 by Charles Scribner's Sons, one chapter of the book deals with the Salton Basin and its prehistoric lake, before the current Salton Sea was formed by an overflowing Colorado River in 1912. The geological explanation of the filling,

then evaporation, of the lake over millennium multiple times creates for the reader a perspective of how our entire southwest desert developed.

My favorite chapters were Chapters V and VI, Light, Air and Color, and Desert Sky and Clouds. Desert summer sunrises and sunsets always draw an exclamation of delight. But what causes their beauty? Light. Light reflecting though the dust of the desert, and the moisture of our summer humidity. "Sunbeams....stain the ledges of copper with turquoise, they burn the buttes to a terra-cotta red, and they paint the sands with rose and violet, and they key the air to the hue of the opal," he wrote. Van Dyke's knowledge of art and the importance of color create a much broader tableau of our Sonoran Desert. Although it may be difficult to locate a copy, this book is truly classic literature of the Southwest.

Very Special New Year Sale & Silent Auction

At Our Meeting Room at Sky Islands Public High School
6000 E 14th St • Sunday, January 8, 2023
Sale 10am to Noon • Silent Auction 10am to 11am

We were donated a large private collection of interesting and special cacti and succulent plants, most of which are not suitable to plant at Pima Prickly Park. It is important to find new homes for these valuable plants as soon as possible. There are a number of special high value plants for sale and they are included in the silent auction.

We also have a number of other donated plants available to sell. There are no rescue plants for sale and therefore no member discounts.

The sale is in two parts. The pre-priced plants are in the multipurpose room and available from 10am till noon. The silent auction will be on tables in the hall starting at 10am with pencils down at 11am. Cash, checks, or credit cards are acceptable methods of payment.

These are all potted plants and there is a limited supply of boxes available. So come prepared. We will have a few carts for you to move your plants to your cars.

For health and safety reasons we will limit the number in the sales area if necessary. We would ask that people who are

not fully Covid boosted or not had a recent flu shot to consider wearing a mask.

Check out photos of some of the silent auction plants on our website.



TCSS trip to the Forest Preserve of the Organ Pipe Cactus, a.k.a. El Pitayal

by Lee Blackwell



Last week Joan and I went to Mexico and joined the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society to visit a forest preserve of the Organ Pipe Cactus, a.k.a. El Pitayal, located in a Mayo indigenous area in Sonora. David Yetman, who we have watched on his TV show, *In The Americas* on PBS, was there so I was quite excited to be spending time with him in person. The botanists in the Society were checking to see how the forest was faring, including areas that are grazed, others that are not and some Pitaya that were planted. This Society gives payment to not graze parts of the reserve.

Joan and I drove on our own so we could stay for a week. The rest of the group were doing a two night trip. Joan and I took our time and spent the first night at the Royal Hotel in Hermosillo. It was not as 'Royal' as we hoped but we survived and the next day we went to the old mercado in the downtown area. It is still old fashioned with piles of everything everywhere with little counters around the edge where you can order tacos and Coca Cola. I took a great video of a smiling woman deftly cutting huge slabs of meat and slapping the cuts in a pile.

We then went to the Palacio Del Gobierno to look at the murals. The Ejército Nacional had a big presence there and we could not get in. Apparently the Governor was coming by so we came back later and we're able to go in. The murals are grand in scale and cover the walls of the Palacio Del Gobierno. They have a Diego Rivera feel with a social and religious content.

Later that day we drove to the city of Navajoa, Sonora where we joined our group. We all stayed at the Hotel Del Río, had dinner together and talked over plans for the outing. Next day we were off to the forest and the Mayo Community. We were given a tour and served a drink made from the red fruit of the Organ Pipe Cactus. We then drove to another area of the preserve by the sea coast. It is flat and hot and covered with the Organ Pipes among other things. This is a group of botanists so much examining of species was done for several hours.

We returned to Navajoa and ate at a taqueria and had a grand time with beer, tacos and stories, then retired to our Hotel Del Río. Soon, though, some big electronic sounds were filling the air from an outdoor party venue across the street. By 10pm they were just getting fired up. Not a lot of sleeping was going on with the thumping beat throbbing through the walls of the room and into my bones. I thought, "Surely they'll wrap this up

by midnight." By midnight I thought, "Surely it will end at one." At 1am I started thinking, "Humm, if you can't sleep because of the party it might be best to join the party!" By 1:30am I tried to roust Joan but no-go so I got out of my jammies and went over by myself and paid my admission.

It was a sight! Hundreds of people in the cool open air. The band members were dressed in cowboy hats and sequined suits. Attendees' dress was what I call Fancy Ranch Sonoran. Cowboy hats and western shirts on the men and tight jeans and glittery blouses with adequate cleavage on the women. Periodically jets of fire shot off the stage and fireworks would go off to the rhythmic trance being induced into the crowd. The beer was cheap, plentiful and cold and when done just drop the can where you are and it becomes part of the detritus.

There was a lot of dancing going on. A lockstep with the partners wrapped tight with each other. Mating rituals abounded with the men on the lookout, eyeing the prospects under the brim of a sleek cowboy hat. I certainly was the oddball there but no one seemed to notice. In spite of the raucous scene there was still an air of small town civility and I got no feeling of danger. I'm sure many people knew each other and I think they were some fairly well off ranchers and farmers. I stayed and bought a few ice cold beers and allowed the rhythmic trance to enter my soul. I took a few good videos and moved into the crowd and into the full force of the sound system, but then fearing early deafness I moved back to the edges. Then I got this need to pee! So I looked at the arrangements and thought well maybe I'll go back out of the venue and come back.

I got my hand stamped with fluorescent ink and went behind the tree in time to watch an enormous tanker truck with two trailers negotiating a car lined narrow street. The "doble semi remolque" truck was probably 100 feet long and the trailer had these little flags that the driver must've been able to see in the mirror and just brushed the cars with the flags. I watched in fascination the skill of the driver.

By then it was about 3 AM so I thought, "We'll it will probably end soon, so it would be cool to watch the finale." I inquired and found that no, it was going till four. So feeling a bit weary I went back to the room and I heard the brass come out at about 3:30 for the finale and I was happy to just lay in bed and listen.

The next day I was a few minutes late to breakfast. As a kind gesture of amusement the group assembled some beers for me so I could be stabilized when I did show for breakfast. No one had really slept. Everyone was heading back to Arizona but Joan and me. We bid the group farewell.

To continue our trip we decided to go to El Fuerte, Sinaloa, the infamous home of the cartels. We had some trepidation but we found El Fuerte to be a beautiful tourist town. We checked into the hotel Santa Elena which had been a regal private home back in the 1800s. There was a little rig made up to look like a train and we hopped on it for the tour of the city. The music was blaring and all the passengers knew songs so they were singing and swaying and the little train was rocking and making quite an uproar as a driver took us up one street and down the other.

The next day we bought another night at the Santa Elena and spent the day going to the town of Choix which put us into the arms of the Sierra Madre range. The mighty Rio Fuerte comes down from the Barrancas Del Cobre complex of the canyons. I spotted a dirt route which I have heard rumors of for years and always have been curious about how viable it would be to go to Batopilas.

It's a place in the heart of the canyons which Joan and I went to many years ago, but we came in from the Chihuahua side. I found out that it is possible with the right vehicle to come in from Choix to Batopilas. There would be waterfalls and Tarahumara villages and big elevation changes on the road. From tropics to pine trees. Another day!

We arrived back in El Fuerte just in time for a procession celebrating the Dia de la Virgen de la Guadalupe. The procession departed from the church on the plaza. We joined

the procession and the live Virgin played her part, modest and stoic standing with downcast eyes and clasped hands on the float. Many prayers and chants were coming from the lead of the procession and we wound through the streets of El Fuerte to another church about a half a mile away.

We then had a fancy dinner at our hotel. Next day after a breakfast with fresh tropical fruits, it was time to head north and we decided to stop over in San Carlos. A cold snap was hitting Sonora as well as everywhere by then. We checked out San Carlos but I just could not get warm. So I shivered into bed and by about 2 AM realized something was up. Covid? Tight chest, achy.

We were back in Arizona by 3 PM the next day and I realized that I had Covid. My first case was upon me. I got it and that's why I could sit still to write this story!



TCSS Education Events

The 2022 Arizona STEM Adventure was held at the Northwest Campus of Pima Community College on November 18. Approximately 1,000 4th-8th grade students attended the event, and nearly 200 spent time at our exhibit. Over 150 built cactus models and others examined cactus and succulent samples grown in our desert. They all learned about the TCSS and our efforts to save cactus and succulents. Thanks to Patsy Frannea for volunteering her time and sharing her expertise with the students.

TCSS was represented at the Presidio San Agustin on November 19 at their Family Fun Day. Children and adults learned about local cactus and succulents and completed related activities.

On November 29, TCSS volunteers participated in Erickson Elementary School's Math and Science night and on December 17, Patsy Frannea represented us again at the Southern Arizona Train Museum's Holiday Express at the depot. Nearly 900 kids attended that event.

During the winter months we'll be looking for more volunteers to work with students at family science nights and judge SARSEF

projects. Please contact education@tucsoncactus.org if you would like to help encourage students to learn more about our desert.



Holiday Party

A great 62th holiday party. It started in 1960 and is a tradition that has stood the test of time. We have needed to adjust most activities for the last couple of years, but we are slowly getting back to normal and stronger than ever. Thanks to Doug Rowsell, Cathy Robson, Crystal Cannon, Patsy Frannea and their committees for Set up, Table Décor, plants and food. And special thanks to all of you for your favorite dishes. The place looked spectacular and the food was delicious, hardly a bite was left.

The annual meeting reviewed the highlight of 2022 and the election of officers ending in 2024 and board members ending in 2025. The officers and Board members elected are Dick Wiedhopf, President, Vonn Watkin, VP, Monica Wnuk, Secretary and Cathy Robson, Treasurer, ending in 2024. The Board members elected ending in 2025 are Brad Haeckel, Judi Mohr, Steve Watts and Brian Vandervoet. See all the officers, board and committees on the back page of the Breeze.

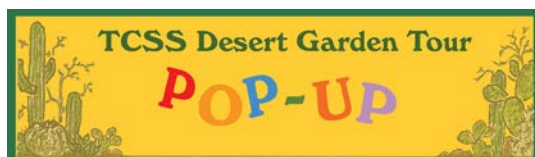
Awards were presented for Service to the Society. Winners of the President's Service Award were Julie Shulick, assistant webmaster, photos for u tube programs & PPP Instagram account; Eli Cavalcante, special rescues, setting up TCSS Instagram account and PPP volunteer and Brad Haeckel, Board Member, manages Library development, Runs and manages Zoom meeting technology. They have contributed immensely to our success.

The President's Special Service Award went to Dale Johnson for her years of dedicated service: Former Board Member, Vendor coordinator, nominations committee

Sonoran conferences and sales.

The party ended with a fun gift exchange, everyone received one of the plant table decorations and we raised over \$3,500 for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Thank you.



A new year is upon us and we're hoping to have more of our popular TCSS Pop-Up Tours on the 2023 calendar. If you would like to consider sharing your desert landscape with the members please go to [Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society - Pop-Up Garden Tours \(wildapricot.org\)](http://Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society - Pop-Up Garden Tours (wildapricot.org)) and fill out the application form near the bottom of the page. While you are on the TCSS website, you can enjoy the many past tours that are archived to get an idea of the diversity of these tours. If you think you might be interested, you can choose any Saturday during the year to showcase your yard. We just need about 2 months notice so that we have time for our necessary preparations.

We certainly are grateful for all of the generous members who shared their yards with us in 2022, and those that have shared in years past. It is so much fun and very educational to get to see the many different ways members landscape with cactus and succulents. If you have any questions please email gardentours@tucsoncactus.org

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.

Colette M. Altaffer
Chris, Kylee, Jackson & Campbell
Arbogast
Sharon Atwell
Walter Barnes & Melvin Laszczynski
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A Number Of Donors Wishing
To Remain Anonymous

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2024)

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

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cactus@Tucsoncactus.org

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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, January 26 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.

130,655

Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

669 Rescues - 49,623 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-23)

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.

January, 2023

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Prevalence and significance of illegal trade in the cactus and
succulent collector community: evidence from qualitative and
quantitative research

Presented by Jared Margulies, Assistant Professor of
Geography at the University of Alabama

Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Program Title to Come

Presented by Tanya M. Quist, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Practice, School of Plant Science
Director, University of Arizona Plant Science

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on January 5, 2023

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](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.