



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2023

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711
Common-sense Cactus Conservation in the 21st Century

Presented by Michiel Pillet

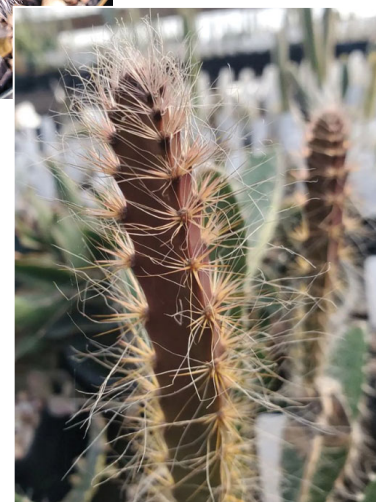
"Cacti are one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet, besieged by poaching, habitat destruction, and climate change. Properly conserving our prickly friends in this changing world requires a paradigm shift in the way we view conservation, as well as increased collaboration between stakeholders from all levels of society."

Michiel Pillet is the Program Officer for the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group hosted by the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at The University of Arizona in Tucson, and a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Committee. 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, things quickly got out of hand. In 2021, he opened a conservation-focused cactus nursery, Prickly Prospects (www.pricklyprospects.com), 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. While he tries to avoid picking favorites, he's partial to columnar cacti, Brazilian species, and opuntia.

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 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. Excellent plant giveaways 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 great refreshments provided by our member volunteers and also, everyone can get a special 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."



"Weberocereus frohningiorum is a critically endangered species from Costa Rica, and is rare in cultivation as well. Secrecy surrounding locality information can reduce poaching, but may also inhibit ex-situ and in-situ conservation efforts."

More photos on the next page

TCSS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Please share and socialize with your fellow members at our monthly meetings by bringing some type of finger food for the refreshment table. For the **July MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with **M through Z** to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.

Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 7:00pm
Bolivian Cacti
Presented by Stefan Burger
Australian Naturalist and Environmental Consultant



*"While *Jasminocereus thouarsii* from the Galápagos Islands is not currently threatened, island species such as this one have nowhere to go if climate change renders their habitat unsuitable."*

More photos from article on the front

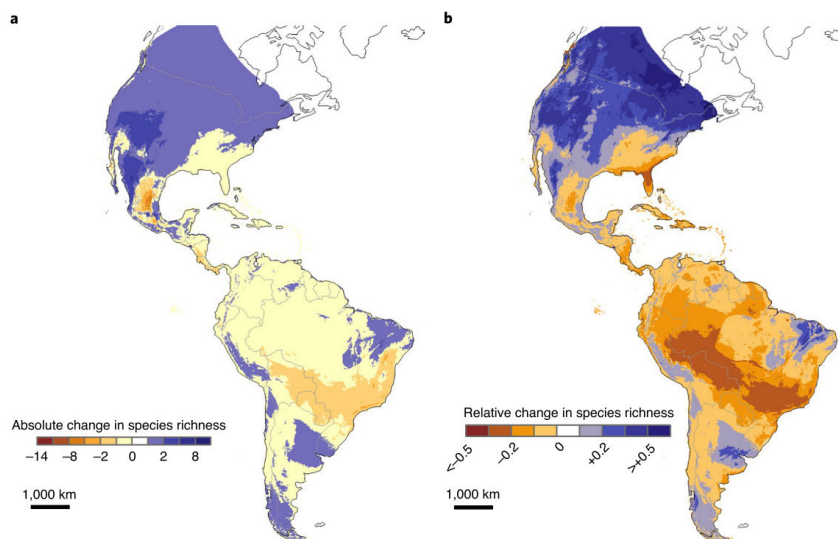


Fig. 3 | Predicted SAR relative to the present for 2061-2080. a, b, Map depicting predicted SAR on an absolute scale (a) and a relative scale (b). SAR values are based on an average across all model runs. Maps for 2041-2060 are provided in the Supplementary Information (Supplementary Fig. 5).

"Expected changes in cactus diversity by 2070 under climate change. Yellow/brown areas indicate regions with predicted losses, and blue areas suggest increases."



President's Message

I decided to collect Saguaro seeds from our plants at Pima Prickly Park. In the almost 12 years (August 15, 2011) we have rescued and planted more than 50 Saguaro of different sizes. This has been a good bloom year and many flowers were pollinated and produced fruit. I went after the low hanging fruit. Many of our plants

are less than 15ft so the fruit was easier to access.

The next step is to conveniently process the fruit. The kitchen is a great place. It is best if you can distract your spouse or significant other and encourage them to leave for a while. It does get a little messy but easy to clean up. All the tools necessary are in the kitchen so it is easy access.

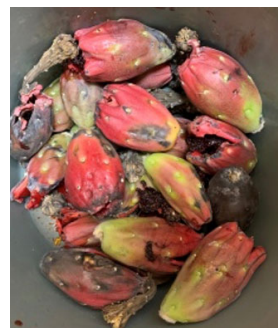
Here is what I used: small hand mixer, large glass bowl, paper plates, paper towels, small knife and a plastic spoon.

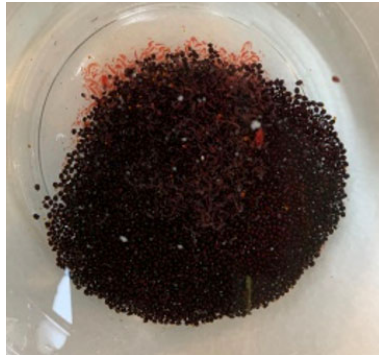
Cut the fruit open exposing the seeds and pulp. This makes it easy to spoon out and place in the glass bowl. I add water and dip the fruit to get any remaining seeds and pulp. When all the seeds were removed and are in the bowl and there is sufficient water for the mixer to free the seeds from the pulp. I let it settle and then carefully decant most of the water and floating seed. The viable seeds sink to the bottom of the bowl. I repeat this process until the water is clear. In this last decant I try to remove most of the water. In the bottom of the bowl are the viable seeds. I spoon them on to several folded paper towels on a

paper plate and let them dry. If the paper towel gets too wet, I replace it with fresh dry paper towels. I stir the seeds on the towel frequently so they can dry quickly. That's all there is too it. I place the dried seed in organza bags. They come in many sizes and are also great for protecting fruits from birds and insects on cacti and succulents as they mature. My 2 day seed haul was over 4oz which is thousands of seeds.

Thanks as always for your support

Dick Wiedhopf, President





Mini Sale

Our Mini Sale on June 17th was another successful sale for TCSS.

66 members showed up at their assigned time to shop with several returning after 10:00 to get additional items. We sold 21 saguaros, 53 barrels, 34 hedgehogs, 211 hoop house plants plus mams, ocotillo, several landscape items and lots of pots. When we were all done, we had 10 barrels and one saguaro (which we sold later) left.

There were 28 volunteers that helped make this a successful sale on Saturday plus five volunteers that showed up on Friday to clean and box mams.

I would like to thank all the members that came out to shop plus the volunteers we could not have done it without you.

Crystal Cannon, TCSS Sales Coordinator

2023 TCSS Summer Interns

Hello TCSS!

I'm very excited to be welcoming our 2023 TCSS Summer Interns!

Joseph Han is a freshman at UA who plans to study Microbiology and Mathematics. He is fairly new to the Sonoran Desert, having moved here from New Jersey only 5 years ago, but has grown to appreciate the unique beauty here. Despite the difference between the Sonoran Desert and the Garden State, Joseph recognizes that this is far from the barren desert that he first interpreted when he arrived here. He has served as an officer for Science Olympiad, the National Honor Society, and the Newspaper Club, and his academic career includes AP Environmental Science and research on plant-microbe interactions with Dr. Baltrus at UA. His schedule is tentatively set for Tuesday through Friday from 7am until noon, so he will be available to work with TCSS at the park on Thursdays from 7am until noon.

Kaylee Wilt is a senior at UA, pursuing a degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis on Rangeland Management and Ecology. She is a native Tucsonan with experience as a camp counselor and outdoor recreation guide, and training as a Wilderness First Responder. Throughout her academic career, courses in plant biology, field botany, and restoration ecology have inspired her to learn more about desert plants - and how to propagate, care for, and conserve them. She has excellent people skills and is extremely eager to learn through hands-on experience (she even volunteered at the nursery and participated in a TCSS salvage before the internship began)! She's tentatively scheduled to work on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:30am until 12:30pm, and on Thursdays from 6:30am until 1:30pm, so she will be available to work with TCSS at the park on Mondays and/or Thursdays.

Please join me in welcoming them aboard, and feel free to reach out to them to introduce yourself.

Amy Belk (Native Plant Nursery Program Coordinator)



Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on July 6, 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

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

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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(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Donna Ellis (2023)

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Kris Thompson (2023)

Eli Cavalcante (2023)

Crystal Cannon (2024)

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Kermie Hodge (2024)

Robert Villa (2024)

Brian Vandervoet (2025)

Brad Haeckel (2025)

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Steve Watts (2025))

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis, Steve Watts

XXTucsoncactus.org

Urban Rescues: Julie Shulick

desertrat@shulick.com

Education: Kris Thompson • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Joyce Peters • 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: Open

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, July 27 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 under Activities 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.

July, 2023

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Common-sense Cactus Conservation in the 21st Century
Presented by Michiel Pillet

Tuesday, July 11, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

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.

Anonymous
Norm & Linda Dennis
Brian Delaney
Greg Starr
Scott Sherman
Aston Maslanka
Brian & Kathleen Vandervoet
Linda Scott



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