



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2023

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 7:00pm

Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Endemic Cacti and Succulents of Baja California: A Pictorial Travelogue

Presented by Peter Breslin



Cochemiea blossfeldiana subsp. *rectispina* in flower on Isla Cedros.



Ferocactus chrysacanthus in flower.



Cochemiea maritima flowering in December at the type locality.

Baja California peninsula is world famous for astonishing cacti and succulent diversity, as well as unforgettable scenery and remote, sometimes almost inaccessible habitat. Breslin's first trip to the Baja California peninsula was 33 years ago, only about 12 years after the Transpeninsular Highway was completed. After 24 years of exploration and more than a dozen field trips, Breslin decided to pursue a Ph.D. in the biogeography and evolution of Baja cacti, with an emphasis on the genera *Mammillaria* and *Cochemiea*, which constitute a significant portion of the cactus diversity on the peninsula. During his research explorations, he visited and photographed every known taxon in Cactaceae and many succulent species, discovered new populations, revised the genera *Mammillaria* and *Cochemiea*, and spent a total of nearly four years in the field, finishing his Ph.D. in 2020. This presentation provides a panoramic, visual and adventurous tour of the rugged and beautiful landscapes and beloved plants of Baja.

Peter started studying cacti in habitat more than 30 years ago and decided to get a Ph.D. in cactus evolution and biogeography at age 52, focused on the *Mammillaria* and *Cochemiea* of Baja California. He finished his Ph.D. at 58, at Arizona State University. He has published widely on topics in cactus evolution and ecology, including being one of the authors of *The Field Guide to Cacti and Succulents of Arizona*, published by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. He is currently conducting the sixth installment since 1964 of the long-term saguaro survey on Tumamoc Hill in Tucson, Arizona, as a postdoctoral research fellow at The Desert Lab at The University of Arizona. He is also the managing editor for CSSA publications, and edits both the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* and the annual peer-reviewed yearbook, *Haseltonia*.

We are always thinking of your safety and if you are not feeling well we ask that you join us on the internet Zoom presentation.

If you're doing well and would like to attend you are perfectly welcome to come and join us for this really special 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 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 great refreshments provided by our member volunteers and also, everyone can get a special free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



Dudleya pachyphytum

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 **OCTOBER MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with "**O**" through "**Z**" to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.



President's Message

It's finally FALL, YEAH! The weather is changing and all of us are enjoying this new season and tending to our plants but realize that winter is just around the corner. I certainly hope this will be a mild winter.

This has been a great year so far for the society. We keep expanding our programs and activities. Just

look at the activity page on or website. There is something to do almost every day. We are developing more classes of interest. For example, we will be holding a tool sharpening class. I think we all need to take better care of our tools rather than replacing them. We have been busy updating the irrigation at Pima Prickly Park and we will be sharing that knowledge in future classes.

Our Goals are "Knowing, Growing, Showing and Conserving." Everything we do fits in with one or more of these goals.

The seed depot and sales is kicking off activities at upcoming plant sales of other organizations. We plan on packaging Saguaro Seeds and information how to grow them and give them away at these events. It is just good publicity on what we do and how everyone can contribute. Contact Eli

Cavalcante (committee chair) eliseucac@gmail.com for more information.

A new feature of the Good Time Silent Auction will be that rescued plants will be included in the auction activity. This means that everyone has an equal opportunity to win a Saguaro or Barrel. We also have some really nice plants from our Urban Rescue program in the auction.

Don't forget we count on you to donate special plants to the silent auction. We repay you with free ice cream. You can't beat that. I hope to see all of you on Sunday, October 1, bidding on plants. The silent auction starts at 3:00pm with the first auction ending about 3:25 and then about every 25 minutes thereafter. We would appreciate it if you wait until the end of the 3 auction to pay for your plants and take them home. With big plants we will provide you help in loading them but not until the end. The process has worked over the years so please follow the directions. The winning bid number will be place on the plant(s) for easy identification.

Our current membership is approaching 1850. Anyone who joins now is a member until December 31, 2024. That's an incentive for new members.

Thank you for your support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Blooming Barrel Sale



The Blooming Barrel Sale in August was another successful sale for TCSS.

We sold 434 plants and took in just over \$8500. It may have been slow from time to time thanks to all the volunteers but that allowed our volunteers time to take a break and socialize amongst themselves - something they don't always get to do. The best part of the sale was the fact that when the sale was over ALL of the plants were gone. That is correct, we had no inventory left. I would like to Thank all the members that came out to purchase plants and the volunteers that helped to make this sale the success it was.

This is what Thom Berger a first time volunteer had to say about the sale -

I am a recent transplant from Phoenix to Tucson and have lived

in Arizona over 40 years. I decided to get involved with the local Cactus Club, so I volunteered at the 'Blooming Barrel' event this weekend. It was a well-organized event under the direction of Crystal Cannon. Blocks of customers arrived throughout the morning and were assisted by Shoppers (my job), and then Loaders to help get purchases into their cars. Everyone was excited to make their selections and take their new plants home!

Aside from learning about local barrels, I heard discussions about the ocotillos, the sansevieria, and the lone saguaro available for sale. The event moved quickly and at approximately 10am, almost all of the plants were gone! It was a fun event. I had the opportunity to meet some other amazing volunteers - Janice, Jan, Kara, Michael, Mikey, Casey, Mike, Dick, Paul, Linda, Chris and so many more! Hope to see you all at the next event!

Crystal Cannon TCSS Sales Coordinator



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

Election for TCSS 2024 Board

Byline: The Nominations Committee

TCSS leadership is comprised of:

- Four officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) who serve two-year terms
- Twelve members who serve on the board for three years
- One CSSA rep who serves for two years

The board meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month and guides all TCSS programs and activities to ensure that we do the best possible job of achieving our club mission which is;

The study and protection of cacti and other succulents.

An easy way to think about what we do is...

Knowing, Growing, Showing, Conserving

At the end of this year, the board terms for four members will expire.

The nominations committee is preparing a slate of nominees for four board positions that expire on December 31, 2023, and will present it at the November board meeting.

If you, or a member you know, is interested in running for election, please submit the name and contact to one of the committee members (below) by October 31st.

The final slate will be presented at the November 2 general meeting. At that time, additional nominations will be taken from the floor and via "Zoom."

All members will receive a ballot in late November along with their 2024 membership renewal form. The election results will be announced in December.

Thanks for your participation! We look forward to hearing from you!

The nominations committee:

Bill Holcombe - holcombew@yahoo.com - 520.256.2447

Steve Watts - Steve@TucsonCactus.org - 503.650.0854

Joel Fontaine - cactusjoelf@gmail.com - 520.403-2787

Family Stem Nights

A thousand thanks to our members who contributed nearly a thousand items to our Back-to-School supply drive for the students at Sky Islands Public High School. Your generosity gave the students a huge boost as they began the new year. We appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Now that school has started, we're receiving requests from various schools and organizations to participate in family STEM nights and with community organizations. On November 8 we'll be at Mansfeld Middle School for their STEM+ Magnet Night. The following week, we will participate in the STEM Night at Maxwell K-8 School and at SARSEF's Southern Arizona STEM Adventure at PCC's Northwest campus where 800 students are expected at the event. Attached is a photo from their website showcasing our previous participation at PCC.

Kris Thompson
TCSS K-12 Education



Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, October 1, 2023 • 3:00 to 5:00 pm
Amphi Cactus Sales Site
4342 N 4th Ave (4th & Wetmore), Tucson, AZ 85705

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Everyone is welcome at this event which has been a Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society tradition for more than 60 years!

Fall is a wonderful time to thin some of the overgrown or tired areas of your garden and shop for cactus and succulent garden treasures at the TCSS Good Time Silent Auction.

What can be better than sharing your extra plants while you visit friends and see what treasures they brought to share. And don't forget about the free ice cream!

Besides the ice cream social, enjoy the great plant sharing at:

- The FREE plant and related items.
- The \$2 and \$5 plant tables.
- And of course the headline Silent Auction (3 of them) which include
Rescued Saguaros & Barrels.
- Sorry, no discount on rescued plants at this sale.

To buy plants at the auction, all you have to do is;

1. Sign in
2. Get a bid number
3. Keep bidding until you hear "PENCILS DOWN, STEP AWAY FROM THE TABLE".

We will run multiple auctions starting at 3:00 pm and ending about every 25 minutes.

Please bring your donated auction items or other donated items for the free, \$2, or \$5 tables between 1:00 pm and 2:30 PM.

We want Plants, Pottery, Botanical Art, Garden Art etc. to sell, auction or give away for free.

Auction/Sale is from 3:00 to 5:00pm

Pima Prickly Park Residence

Photo credit - Crystal Cannon



I am a resident not a visitor to Pima Prickly Park. Keep your eyes open for me and keep your distance from me.



What a luxury home for this pack rat - two stories !!

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on October 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

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

TCSS Sales Volunteer



My name is Mikey. It was my first time volunteering at a cactus sale. I recently moved to Tucson and was searching around online for things to do then I found TCSS. I am excited to do some rescues and work at the park. I really enjoy learning about native plants and ecology!

Thanks,
Mikey Lazar



In this heat it's difficult to think about touring gardens, but hopefully, before we know it, the cooler temperatures of Fall will arrive and we'll all be ready to enjoy being out in our desert gardens again.

If you are interested in sharing your desert garden with members, please fill out the application that is on our website at [Popup_Tour_Application.pdf](#) (wildapricot.org)

You can choose any Saturday during the year that hasn't already been scheduled. We just need a couple of months' notice to get everything in place for the tour. In general, there are no rules or necessary requirements/knowledge to be on the tour other than a visual emphasis on cactus and succulents. Our Pop-Up Tours are just a way for members to share ideas and get inspiration for their own landscapes. We hope you might consider sharing your garden with the TCSS membership

Important Dates For 2023

Watch or further details and announcements

October 1, 2023	Good Time Silent Auction
November 12, 2023	Celebrate TCSS Birthday
December 10, 2023	Holiday Party and Annual Meeting

Volunteer Wish List

TCSS is looking for some volunteers to help out in the following areas

1. We are looking for someone to help Karen with the monthly newsletter. This person would contact members/leadership within the club to have articles submitted each month. If you are interested in helping send an email with your name, email address, and phone number to membership@tucsoncactus.org.
2. Everyone enjoys the snacks after the monthly meetings. We are looking for volunteers to monthly "Plan, purchase, set out and cleanup" meeting refreshments. If you are interested please send an email to refreshments@tucsoncactus.org with your name, email address, and phone number.
3. The TCSS Birthday Celebration will be on November 12th at Pima Prickly Park. We looking for someone to head up this celebration and a group of members to assist. If you are interested please respond to president@tucsoncactus.org with your name, email address, and phone number.
4. We all enjoy the Fall/Spring Pop Up Tours where we get to see the wonderful gardens of our fellow TCSS members. We are looking for members that are willing to show their gardens.

Keep in mind they do not have to be perfect, the plants do not have to be labeled with names, and your garden does not have to be massive. Members just enjoy seeing what others have done and get new ideas for their own gardens. If you are interested in showing your garden please send an email with your name, email address and phone number to tours@tucsoncactus.org.

5. Thanks to all that have stepped forward to help water at Pima Prickly Park. Now we are looking for members that are willing to water a specific area two times a month. If you are looking for a way to volunteer for four/six hours a month, this is the perfect job for you. You only come twice, you are outdoors, you can do it when it is convenient for you, and the plants will love you. If interested please send you name, email, and phone number to park@tucsoncactus.org.

Thanks for stepping up and helping out where needed.

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

Board of Directors:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Donna Ellis (2023)
Janice Johnson (2023)
Kris Thompson (2023)
Eli Cavalcante (2023)
Crystal Cannon (2024)
Linda Heisley (2024)
Kermie Hodge (2024)
Robert Villa (2024)
Brian Vandervoet (2025)
Brad Haeckel (2025)
Joel Fontaine (2025)
Steve Watts (2025))

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis, Steve Watts
Tucsoncactus.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, October 19 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.

October, 2023

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 7:00pm

Endemic Cacti and Succulents of Baja California:

A Pictorial Travelogue

Presented by Peter Breslin

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 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.

Edward Broesample

Gerald Berthelette

Blake Sullivan

Susan Skirvin

Edie Campbell

Luz Chambers

Linda Ryan

Carol Owens

John & Kay Kooistra

Bill Thornton

Nan Fitzpatrick & Tom Gervais

Jacob Lashot

Joy Baynes

In Memory Of Peter Ertman

Kris Thompson

Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 7:00pm

Crevice Gardens: a useful new tool for dry gardens

Presented by Kenton J. Seth
Colorado Garden Designer