

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday January 5, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Natural Selection: A Cross-Section of Biodiversity in South Africa"

Presented by Jan Emming



In September 2016, Jan Emming joined five other members of the TCSS to make a several-week-long trip to the marvelous nation of South Africa. The excursion was specifically designed to take in many of the natural features of this very diverse country. While succulent plants were definitely a part of the itinerary there was much time spent on nonsucculent botanical features, as well as the various big game and smaller animals that South Africa is justifiably famous for. From elephants to elephant food trees (*Portulacaria afra*), penguins to cycads, and thornbush to fynbos, Jan's program will highlight some of the country's best natural features.

A note on the program itself: we did see numerous succulents, but we spent a greater share of our time in regions that are better known for nonsucculent plant species and big game animals, so the program will reflect this. I believe that many TCSS members have seen great programs that focused almost entirely upon the most succulent-rich habitats of the Western and Northern Cape Provinces, most notably the Karoo, Richtersveld, Namaqualand, etc, which were not actually regions we visited. We did spend two days in the Little Karoo and items we saw there will be reflected, but the program has lots of photos of animals, intriguing nonsucculent plants, and less-seen succulents in the north and east of the country. I am pleased with the numerous good photos I captured and I think that the TCSS membership will be as well.

Jan Emming has been a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society for 17 years, joining shortly after he moved to Arizona in 1999. That was the year he purchased a large, off-grid 40 acre parcel of land in the scenic and biologically diverse Hualapai Mountains south of Kingman, Arizona, where the Sonoran Desert merges with the Mojave Desert. This ecological conjunction brings together both saguaro cacti and Joshua trees, alongside a whole range of other species. Since then he's been working on accumulating a large horticultural collection of plants grown outdoors in the ground, mainly succulents but also other xerically-adapted trees, shrubs, and bulbs. Desert Sense Nursery at Destination: Forever Ranch and Gardens offers tours and plant sales by appointment. Jan assures people that the detour off of the main roads is worthwhile if they happen to be in the area!"

All our members that live within traveling distance to our meeting location should attend this excellent program presented by Jan Emming. We will also have some wonderful plants in our plant raffle, lots of great refreshments and excellent free plants offered to everyone by the club.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday February 2, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"An exploratory trip to Northwestern Argentina"

Presented by Guillermo Rivera



Guillermo's presentation will cover the habitats of several provinces from central and Northwestern Argentina, from salt flats to high elevation Puna habitats. *Gymnocalycium*, *Echinopsis*, *Parodia* among many others will be well represented, as well as some bromeliads and some wildlife. This presentation is more than a simple travel log as it addresses the importance of habitat knowledge in order to determine the validity of plant names and the issue "too many names for the same plant". Diversity and variability of plants in habitat within populations and between populations will be addressed. The importance of habitat knowledge will be discussed and its significance in plant taxonomy.

Guillermo Rivera was born in Argentina. Owner of Plant Expeditions (former South America Nature Tours), a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 15 years, throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico and South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia with emphasis on plants (bromeliads, cacti, and orchids), and birding. Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology, University of Cordoba and MS Marine Biology. Northeastern University. PhD in Botany University of Cordoba

Next year we are planning another trip to Namibia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and a combined Chile-Patagonia venture. All these trips will focus on the cactus and bromeliad flora of these places. If you wish more information about planned trips, please visit www.plantexpeditions.com. To contact Guillermo directly, info@southamericanaturetours.com or plantexpeditions@gmail.com

Be sure to attend the February program and enjoy the company of friends and visitors. Excellent refreshments, raffle plants to win and the club gives you a free plant when you depart at the end of the meeting.

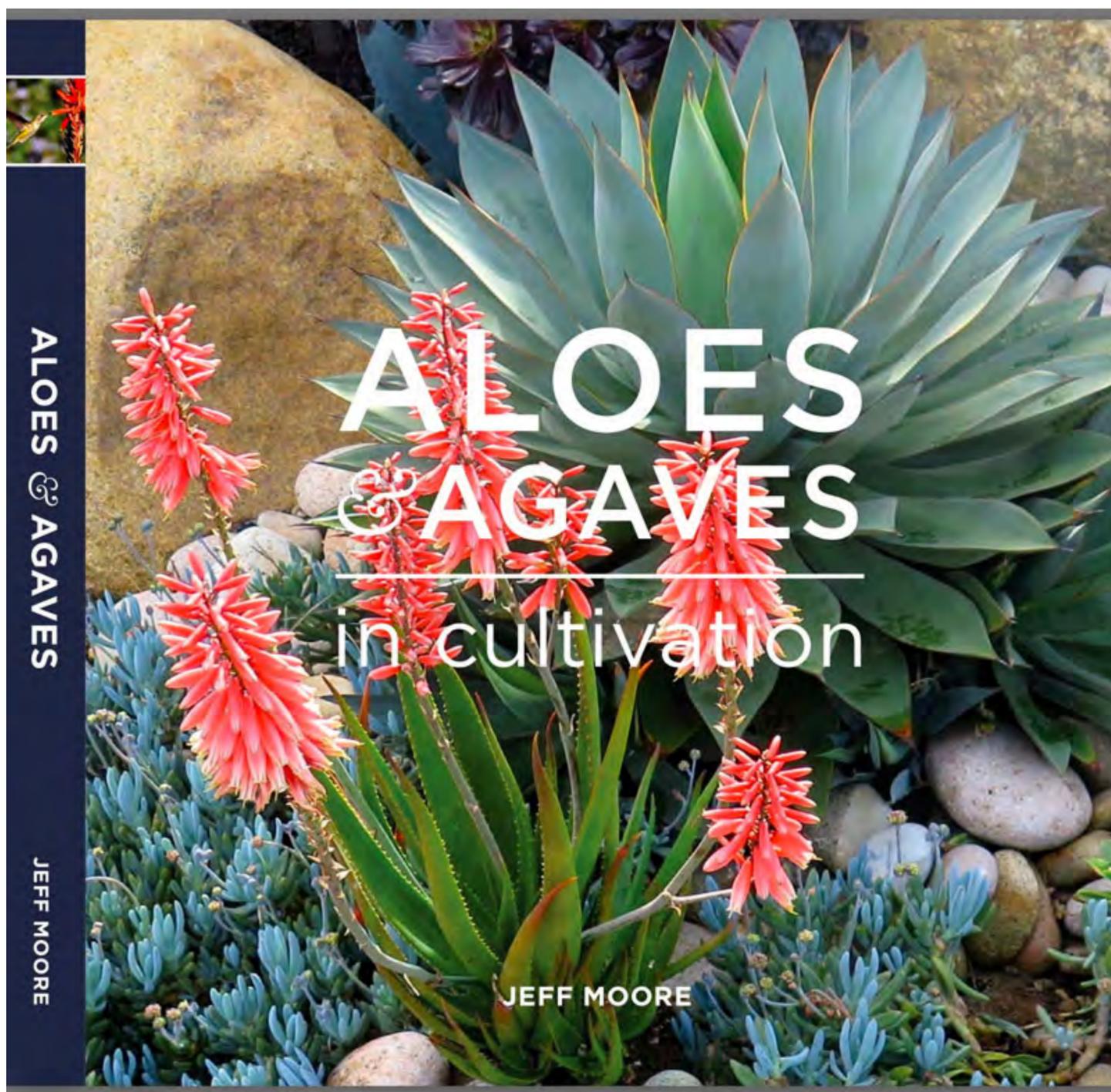


Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday March 2, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Aloes and Agaves in cultivation"

Presented by Jeff Moore



This program will follow the flow of Jeff's new book, "Aloes and Agaves in cultivation". There will be a lot of nice images on both genera (and a few of the related genera as well), and the emphasis will be on these plants in cultivation, not habitat. Of course cultivation for me is California, which is different from Arizona, but we'll talk about which plants will survive your climate and which won't. I'm sure I'll learn a bit from the audience on that subject. This book comes from my passion for aloes, and a lesser degree agaves, which I became more enthusiastic about as I put the book together. I combined them in one book as they make similar statements in the landscape, and quite a few aloe nuts also like agaves, and vice versa. I'll talk about the broad differences for those that are new to the succulent club.

Jeff has operated his nursery in Solana Beach for close to 25 years now, and has really enjoyed the book-making process and the opportunity it has given him to travel in California and Arizona to speak with the clubs. He is working on a third book now on soft succulents - aeoniums, echeverias, dudleyas, crassula, sedums, kalanchoes, etc..... Looks good on the computer, and he hopes to have it ready by the end of the year.

Be sure to come and enjoy Jeff's program that will introduce his book and give his insight on the cultivation of aloes and agaves. You may win a great plant, enjoy some refreshments and get your free plant before going home for the evening.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday April 6, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Pediocactus and Sclerocactus; A Tour of the Colorado Plateau"

Presented by Rob Skillin



Sclerocactus polyancistrus blond form from the El Paso Mts.

This month's program will feature two little known genera of American cacti: *Pediocactus* and *Sclerocactus*. Presented by the [Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society](#)'s Rob Skillin. The program highlights the best of 25 years of field study during which Rob photographed all species of the two groups, as well as the magnificent landscapes of the Southwestern US. He will explain what these plants are, where they are found, the often very specialized environmental conditions they have adapted to, and why they are so seldom grown in plant collections. Come to this month's meeting and learn about the smallest US cactus, the rarest US cactus, and the most widespread genus you've never heard of.

I have been growing cacti and succulents for nearly 40 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time. The first office I held was Show and Sale Chairman for the [Santa Barbara C&SS](#), during the late 1980's. After moving to California's Central Valley, I became a founding member, and later, President of the [Bakersfield C&SS](#). In 2005, after another move, I was a founder the Central Coast C&SS and became its first President. This society now boasts 300+ enthusiastic members, and held its very successful tenth annual show and sale in May of 2016. I have also been involved with the CSSA as a member of its Board of Directors.

My first interest, which continues today, was cacti of the Chihuahuan desert, especially those unique genera such as *Ariocarpus*, *Aztekium*, and *Strombocactus*, etc. Gradually, I diversified my collection to include Mesembs, Haworthias, and other succulents, particularly caudiciforms. I've spent many years studying the cacti of the US, particularly *Sclerocacti* and *Pediocacti*. I am an avid grower of plants from seed, and now have a number of seed-grown specimens in my collection dating back to 1982. As an acknowledgment my expertise with these plants, I have been asked to judge numerous shows throughout California, including the CSSA, Intercity, NORCAL, LA, and San Diego shows.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I enjoy photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during my botanical explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. I have several programs based on these trips, and I speak regularly to clubs in northern and southern California. Many of my photographs have been published as illustrations for articles and covers of the *Journal* and *Haseltonia*, as well as the Timber Press Book of Succulents of the World.

This should be an excellent program that will cover plants many people have never seen in habitat even though they are found growing in the United States. Come and enjoy friends, refreshments, view the educational library, win some plants and get a free plant at the end of the meeting.



Paul Skillin observing the physiological characteristics of *Sclerocactus parviflorus*.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday May 4, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change"

Presented by Michiel Pillet



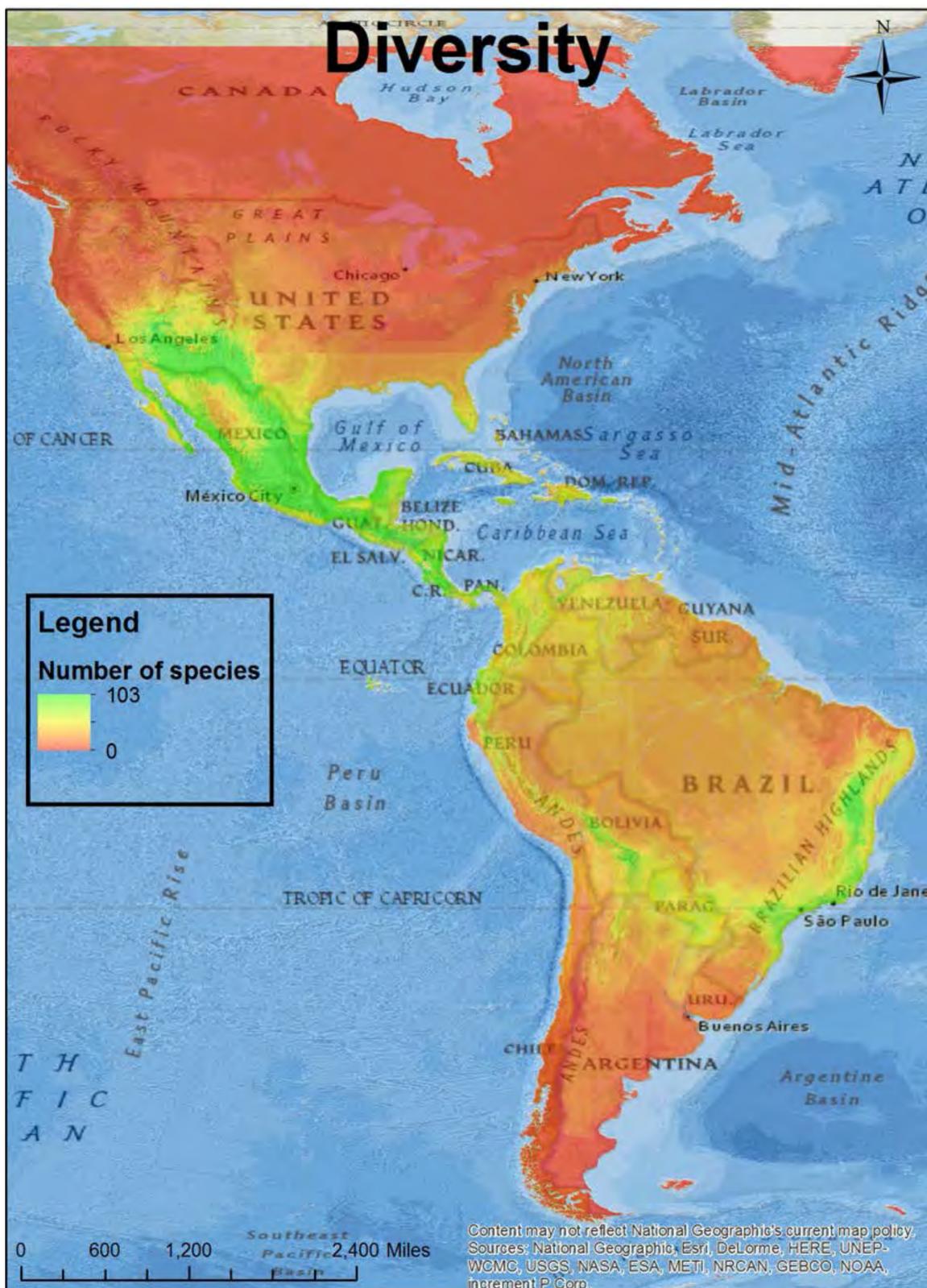
Using almost 40,000 records of individual cacti, and information on climate, land use, and seed dispersal, Michiel made predictions of the current and future ranges of hundreds of species. This allowed him to assess changes in range size for some of our favorite species. Such information is helpful for conservation biologists, who need to decide how to spend limited funding. It can also help with discovery of new species and populations. For example, based on known locations of the rare *Mammillaria luethyi*, are there other areas predicted by the computer models to be suitable but from which this species is not known? Or, where will prime habitat for saguaro be located fifty years from now?

Recently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) completed an assessment of the conservation status of 1,478 species of cacti. They found that 31% of these species were threatened, a proportion higher than for birds and mammals. The most significant threats were found to be agriculture, development, and collection of plants in the wild. Climate change was noticeably absent from this list, but very few cactus studies have addressed this topic. Does climate change worsen the outlook for cacti?

Using tens of thousands of geographic records, Michiel assessed the potential impacts of climate change for several hundred species, including iconic taxa such as saguaro, *Ariocarpus retusus*, and Arizona queen of the night. Please join him in an exploration of the future of our prickly friends. Along the way, we'll learn about climate change, focus on the stories of some of the 99 species considered to be critically endangered, and discuss how we can all play a role in their conservation.

Michiel grew up in Belgium, and became fascinated by succulents as a teenager. After high school, he moved to Montana for college, unfortunately having to leave his first plant collection behind. He and his wife just moved to Arizona last year. Michiel is a doctoral student at University of Arizona, where he works primarily on computer models with application to conservation. Having been welcomed warmly by several members of TCSS, he quickly rebuilt his succulent collection, with several hundred plants and thousands of seedlings. He is working toward starting a succulent non-profit whose missions are conservation and making rare species more available to the public. Besides succulents, he is also interested in reptiles, insects, amphibians, and carnivorous plants.

Please be sure to come to the May 4th program and introduce yourself to Michiel. This should be a very good program that needs our attention. Also enjoy the refreshments, free plants and so much more.



Another way to use the occurrence data is the creation of diversity maps. Why are cacti so diverse in the Brazilian Highlands? Where did cacti originate? Those are some of the questions such maps can drive us to think about.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday June 1, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Treasures of the Seri Madres --- Succulents and Adventure along the Coast of Sonora"

Presented by Tom Van Devender and Ana Lilia Reina-Guerrero



View of Puerto Libertad. Photo by Vonn Watkins.

This program features the trip to the Gulf of California in Sonora, Mexico during the month of March, 2017. There were a total of 13 people on the trip plus the 2 guides, Tom and Ana Lilia. This program will show and highlight the amazing diversity of succulent plants and also describe the many adventures and locations that were visited and experienced.

Thomas R. Van Devender was the Senior Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for 25 years, where he conducted research on a broad range of natural history topics. He has published well over a hundred publications on a range of topics, including natural history, paleoecology, desert grasslands, desert tortoise ecology, local floras, ethnobotany, herpetofaunas and the Madrean Archipelago. Tom is interested in the natural history of many areas in Sonora, especially the Madrean the Sky Island mountain ranges, the la Frontera zone within 100 km of the Arizona border, the Yécora area in the Sierra Madre Occidental, and tropical deciduous forest in the Álamos area. In May 2015, he began as the Director of Biodiversity Programs at GreaterGood.org, where he organized biodiversity inventories to Sonoran Sky Islands in the Madrean Discovery Expeditions (MDE) program and manage the Predator Conservation Program. From 2009 to 2014, he was the Manager of the Madrean Archipelago Biodiversity Assessment (MABA) project at Sky Island Alliance. MABA documented the diversity of animals and plants in the 32 isolated Sky Island ranges and complexes in Sonora, Mexico. These biological records and high-resolution images are available to support conservation activities in the region. Tom organized twelve binational expeditions with large volunteer groups of taxonomic specialists, land managers, college professors and students, local residents, photographers, and journalists to make new observations in high-diversity areas in Sky Island ranges in Sonora. The MABA (Madrean.org) and the new MDE (Madreandiscovery.org) databases are the best sources of biological records in the Madrean Archipelago.

Ana Lilia Reina-Guerrero received her undergraduate degree from the Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo in Agricultural Sciences with a thesis on Medicinal Plants of the Mountain Pima Indians of the Municipio de Yécora, Sonora. She has been involved in ethnobotanical studies with the Seri and Mayo Indians, including the Mayo Ethnobotany book with David Yetman and Tom Van Devender. She is interested in the ethnobotany of Sonoran cacti and was a collaborator on the *Cáctaceas de Sonora* and *My Nana's Remedies* books. Since 1990 she has been involved in floristic surveys in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands in northeastern Sonora border region, and the Yécora area in association with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM) and Sky Island Alliance. She and Tom Van Devender have made over 20,000 plant collections mostly in the state of Sonora. Since 2009, she has led a US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) project to interview rural residents in Central Sonora about the Masked Bobwhite Quail. She has been very active in plant inventories on field trips to Sonora as part of the Madrean Archipelago Biodiversity Assessment project at Sky Island Alliance. She is a professional English-Spanish translator who has translated a broad range of natural history writings for ASDM, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the San Diego Natural History Museum, and other conservation organizations.

If you want to know more about the fantastic 5 day trip into the state of Sonora, please attend this excellent program. You will also enjoy lots of excellent refreshments, win some great plants and go home with a free plant provided by the TCSS.



The group gathers for information from Tom and Ana Lilia. Photo by Vonn Watkins.

Thursday July 6, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Agave Distribution from Coast to Coast and Deserts to Mountains"

Presented by Greg Starr



Agave sebastiana on Isla de Cedros in Baja California



Agave azurea in the Picachos de Santa Clara in the Vizcaino Desert

Have you ever wondered where the epicenter of agave distribution is or where the greatest diversity of species occurs? Are there more species in the tropics, deserts, coasts or mountains? Greg has wondered the same thing and decided it was about time to dive into the subject matter and find some answers. He found some answers and wants to share the results with you. Come out on a hot July night and be prepared to be blown away by what he has found out. Okay, maybe mildly shocked is more likely. Agaves are wholly New World plants, being found in the southern U.S. throughout Mexico, Central America, northern South America, and even the Caribbean. They grow along the coasts of Mexico: in hot, hyper-arid desert regions; moist, steamy subtropics; semi-arid grasslands; and cool, high mountains. They grow in sandy soils, rich volcanic soils, limestone rocks, granitic rocks, gentle slopes, and steep, vertical cliffs. Greg will show examples from the major centers of diversity as well as from all the varied and diverse habitats in which agaves can be found. If you have even a mild interest in plant distribution, or if you just want a 45 minute nap, join your friends and colleagues for an evening of agaves, snacks and conversation. The presentation will not only focus on agave distribution, but will also include some of the best species for landscape use in the desert southwest. Greg has spent many years traveling throughout the desert southwest, and much of Mexico studying and photographing agaves along with other interesting desert adapted plants, and he will most likely show the cream of the crop in this brand spanning new presentation for which the members of TCSS are the lucky recipients.

Greg Starr was born and raised in the Sonoran Desert although he did not become a true plant-o-phile until his college days. His fascination with desert plants for landscaping led to his first book, *Cool Plants for Hot Gardens*, which went viral and is now out of print. His second book, *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers*, is a direct result of his long standing interest in those amazing plants. He recently co-authored the *Field Guide to Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona*, funded by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and private donors. He travels throughout Mexico with many recent trips to Baja California researching a proposed book on the Agaves of Baja California. Greg is an advocate of mixing flowering plants with cacti and other succulents and promotes this idea whenever possible. Greg has presented talks on agaves, cacti and other succulents, and desert plants in general throughout the United States and will be going worldwide at Australia's Succulenticon

2018.

Please join us only a few days after July 4th for an excellent program that should be a great summer treat. There will be some excellent plants to win as well as lots of snacks and treats prepared by Patsy Frannea and all our refreshment volunteers, for everyone to enjoy. The TCSS will also give everyone a free plant when leaving for the night. Come and enjoy our July program presentation!



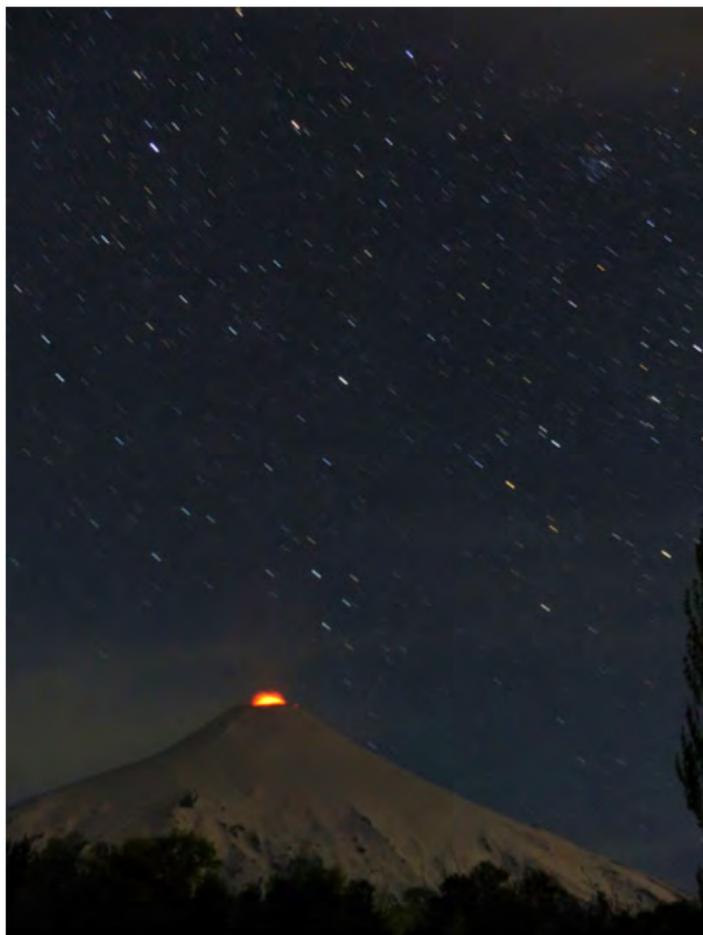
Agave montana on Cerro Pena Nevada in southern Tamaulipas

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday August 3, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Shoestring Travels: Botanical Discoveries in Chile"

Presented by Jan Emming

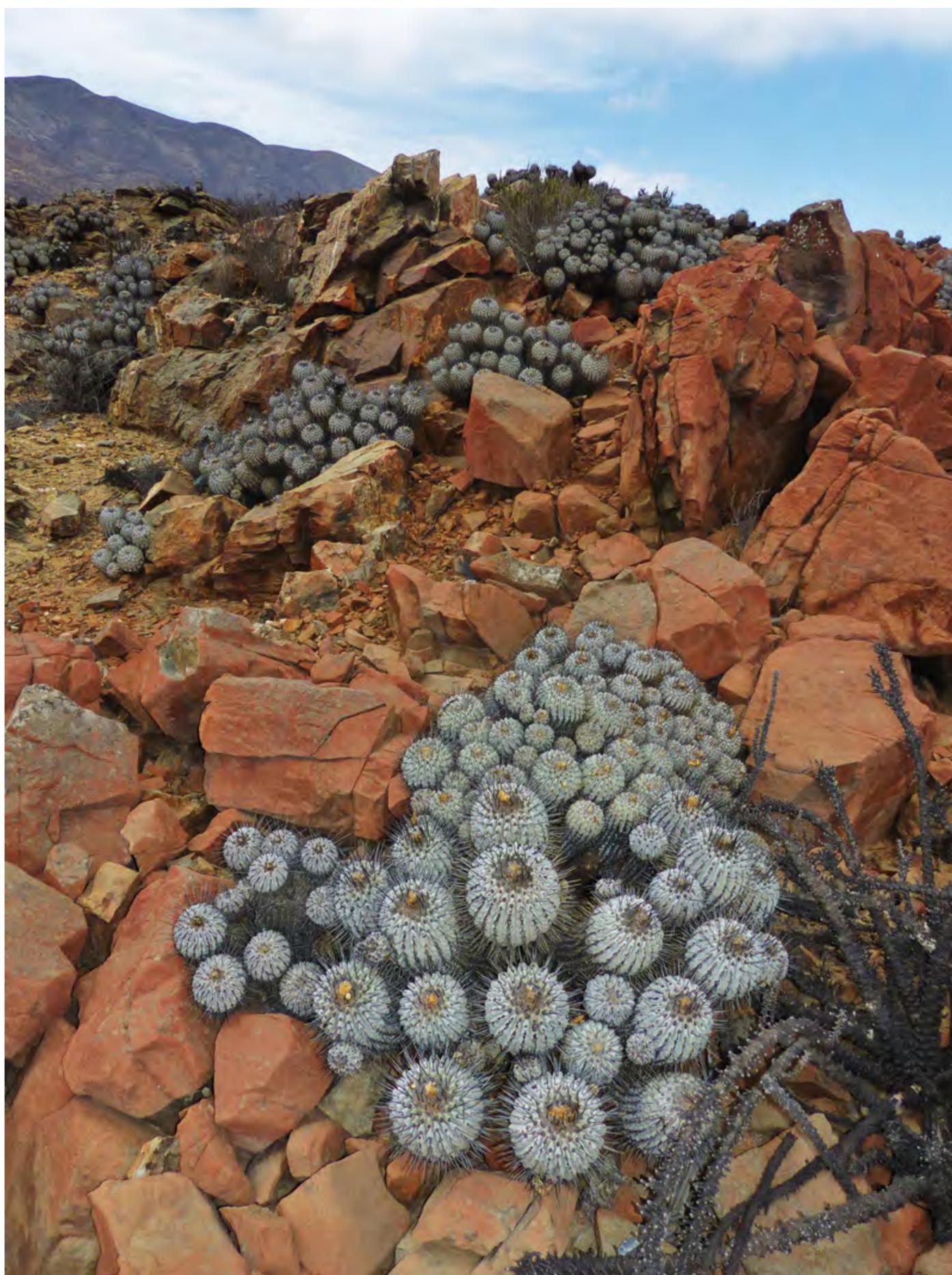


Volcan Villarica

Chile is the world's longest, narrowest country. Located on the west coast of South America, Chile spans climates from sub-Antarctic glaciers and temperate rainforests in the far south to the driest region on earth, the Atacama Desert, in the far north. The physical isolation of the ecosystems of Chile from both the rest of South America and the world by the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains has led numerous unique species to evolve over time. Along almost all of its 2800 mile length, fascinating succulents and many other types of plants can be found. Join us for this presentation exploring some of the wonders to be seen in this beautiful and diverse nation.

Jan Emming has been a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society for 17 years, joining shortly after he moved to Arizona in 1999. That was the year he purchased a large, off-grid 40 acre parcel of land in the scenic and biologically diverse Hualapai Mountains south of Kingman, Arizona, where the Sonoran Desert merges with the Mojave Desert. This ecological conjunction brings together both saguaro cacti and Joshua trees, alongside a whole range of other species. Since then he's been working on accumulating a large horticultural collection of plants grown outdoors in the ground, mainly succulents but also other xerically-adapted trees, shrubs, and bulbs. Desert Sense Nursery at Destination: Forever Ranch and Gardens offers tours and plant sales by appointment. Jan assures people that the detour off of the main roads is worthwhile if they happen to be in the area!

Great monsoon weather welcomes our friend Jan Emming back to Tucson. Be sure to see this journey by Jan into the plant habitats of Chile. Take home an excellent raffle plant, join in on the most interesting conversations, enjoy lots of great refreshments and get your free plant offered to everyone by the club.



Copiapoa dealbata

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday September 7, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"The New, Rare and Seldom Seen Cacti and Succulents of Mexico"

Presented by Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich



Agave albopliosa

Mexico is considered by many to be one of the richest regions in the world for cacti. From the United States to the north, to its southern border of Guatemala, there are an amazing number of genera and species to be found. These range from the tiny *Turbinicarpus* to the giant *Pachycereus*. Within the reaches of Mexico, there are many diverse geologic environments. These habitats vary from the coastal and inland low lands to its many high mountain niches. For almost 50 years, I have been lucky enough to have traveled most all of Mexico. Thus, my favorite regions for exploring include the most popular Baja California, to the mysterious Sierra Madre Occidental, and the succulent rich Sierra Madre Oriental. It is from these famous territories that the majority of the highly desired collector's taxa are to be found.

One might think that Mexico, being so close to the United States, would have been totally explored and there would be nothing new to find. Nothing could be further from truth! We are now finding new species of cacti and other succulents at an astonishing rate. These new finds have become a reality mainly because of the construction of many new roads leading us into what was previously unexplored territory. Coahuila, Durango and Zacatecas embody many of these remote regions where few explorers have had the opportunity to botanize. And now, these areas are rapidly opening up!

The ever-popular genera of: *Agave*, *Dasylerion*, *Fouquieria*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Aztekium*, *Echeveria*, *Gymnocactus*, *Mammillaria*, *Pelecephora* and *Turbinicarpus*, are just a few of the genera where the addition of new species has become common. Due to all of the excitement and interest in these new plants, there have been numerous negative side effects that have evolved. This increased interest in these new plants, combined with the commercial powers of the internet/google, has created new distribution avenues for the marketing of the rare and or endangered species. Plants I have seen for many, many years are now facing new threats from commercial collecting. CITIES and the enforcement of local and international laws, regarding illegally collected plants, has had very little impact on curtailing the destruction of specific plant populations. This is especially true when plants are new or highly desired because of their scarcity in the collector's circuit.

Come join me, as I will show you many of the new cacti and other succulents of Mexico. Also, I hope to share with you what is happening to these wonderful plants, partly as a result of our new electronic world and the power of money!

Woody, as he is commonly known, has been in the cactus hobby for some 47 years and has become well known for his participation and contributions. He has been awarded honorary life membership to ten clubs, as well as, a life member and Friend award with the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) His many leadership roles include: National Show Chairman, Convention Sales Chairman, Convention Speaker coordinator, 2016 Mid-States Conference Co-chair, accredited C & S judge and writer -photographer. He has also served in almost all positions of leadership for many regional clubs and is currently the president of the new Santa Fe C & S club.

Woody is probably best recognized for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. After all, he was a celebrated secondary school teacher for 32 years, where he taught Art, Graphic Arts-Design and Architecture. He has now become a recognized international speaker and has presented at cactus and succulent events all over the world.

He has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters and journals including the CSSA journal and his photographs are also well published. His work is featured in many books including: "The New Cactus Lexicon" Hunt and Charles, "Mammillaria" Pilbeam, and "Echeveria Cultivars" Schulz & Kapitany. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal article "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" featuring show plants, shows, and the growers of the pictured plants. He is also often called upon to do new book reviews for the CSSA journal

His involvement in the cactus and succulent world is well represented by his 45 years of field work in regions including: Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. He often goes to remote places where few, if anyone, have ever explored and as a result of this field work, he has introduced many new taxa. Also, being a recognized grower, Cactus Data Plants since 1975, Woody has developed strong interests in both succulent plant taxonomy and the many cultivation secrets that help us to grow these unique plants.



Aztekium valdezii



Mammillaria bertholdii

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday October 5, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"Lithops in Cultivation, from Ed Storms to Living Stones Nursery"

Presented by Jane Evans

Born in Tucson, I have been a Sonoran Desert devotee my entire life. I attended the University of Arizona where I received my BS in Plant Science. This is also where I met my husband to be Gene Joseph.

While in College my interest in Sonoran Desert Native plants as well as cacti and succulents began to develop. Perhaps one of my most memorable college plant moments was when Gene and I traveled to the [Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#) to meet Drs Frank and Carol Crosswhite.

Gene and I were members of the U of A Hort club. Feeling that the club should have a cactus collection but as you would imagine no money, it was suggested by our advisor Dr. Lemoyne Hogan, that we go to the Arboretum and ask the Crosswhite's for plants to start the collection. Meeting the Crosswhite's was an experience on its own but then they sent us home with my VW bug loaded to the gills with cactus. I remember still to this day riding home with cactus under my feet, all around me and in my lap!

After a year out of College working for the University Extension Service, I launched myself into self-employment on the corner of Stone and Blacklidge where I have worked for the last 38 years.

When I purchased the property in 1978 there was a flower shop and 2 greenhouses. For the next 12 years I ran the flower shop to pay the mortgage, always with my eye on the greenhouses and a way out of the flower business.

In 1986 Gene needed a place to start his nursery business and I had the perfect piece of property. The nursery, [Plants for the Southwest](#), was born and the 2 greenhouses turned into 8! In 1987 we were able to purchase the Lithops collection of Ed Storms from his recently widowed wife Ruth and Living Stones Nursery was started.

In 1988 Gene and I married and you could say I came with a dowry:)

Finally in 1990 I was able to sell my flower shop accounts and move outside to the nursery. My working dream finally came to fruition.

The rest as they say is history or perhaps more correctly herstory!

Please be sure to come and enjoy a really special program that everyone will be sure to enjoy. Also, win a raffle plant or door prize, and pick up a free plant provided by the club then you depart the evening.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Thursday November 2, 2017 from 7 - 9 pm

"The science (and art) of taxonomy: How we make sense of nature's diversity"

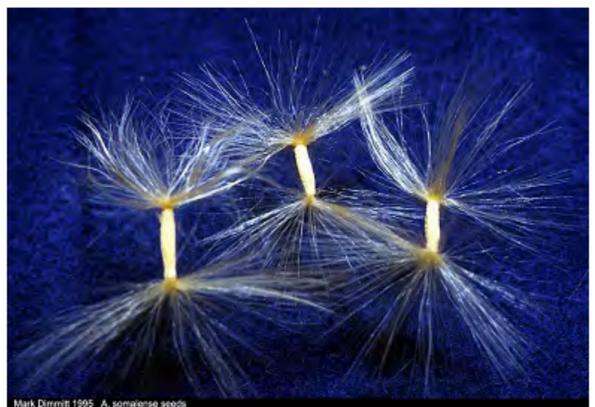
Presented by Mark Alan Dimmitt



Mark Dimmitt 1987 (L to Rt): Echinopsis, 2 Lobivia, Trichocereus, 2 Helianthocereus



Mark Dimmitt ca. 1995 Carnegia gigantea



Mark Dimmitt 1995 A. somaliense seeds



Mark A. Dimmitt has a Ph.D. in biology (herpetology) from the University of California at Riverside after earning an M.S. from UCLA and a B.S. from Pomona College. He worked at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum from 1979 to 2011, first as Curator of Botany, and eventually as Director of Natural History (field ecologist). His areas of research included botany and vertebrate biology, and he is the author of more than 50 scientific and popular publications about ecology and horticulture. He is a Fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. His major publication is the plant and ecology chapters of *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert* (2000), and is the senior editor of the revised edition (2015).

Mark's other and ongoing career is as a plant breeder. He spent a couple of decades hybridizing *Trichocereus* (*Echinopsis*, cacti), then *Tillandsia* (bromeliads); he has introduced about 50 cultivars. Since the late 1970s his main focus has been on hybridizing the genus *Adenium*; 'Crimson Star', 'Evelyn Marie', and 'Bouquet' are among his creations. He is coauthor of the book *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance* (2008). Mark also collects and grows a number of other weird plants, mostly succulents and epiphytes.

This will be our last program presentation for 2017. Please be sure to come and enjoy a very special program (seeing in person will always be best). Win a raffle plant or door prize, and be sure to pick up a free plant provided by the club as you depart.

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THE TREE OF LIFE

