



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

November 2011

Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7:00PM

"Preserving the pitaya reserves: Challenges from Sonora."

Presented by David Yetman



Dave in Peru with a Calymmanthium--the evolutionary precursor of columnar cacti.

"A few thousand hectares paralleling the coast of southern Sonora comprise a distinct habitat--coastal thornscrub--one of the world's richest columnar cactus habitats. It is also one of the most endangered. Beginning about fifteen years ago I began working toward preserving parts of it, especially seeing how quickly the forest was being plundered for firewood, trampled by cattle, and cleared for buffelgrass. Nongovernmental organizations in the Tucson area were instrumental in helping set up the preserves, but the political processes were more complicated than I imagined, and still are. Political and social blockages are quite different in Mexico from those in the United States. As I discovered, maintaining these precious habitats is like walking through unidentified minefields."

David Yetman is a research social scientist and has been at the Southwest Center since 1992. He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Arizona in 1972. Yetman's research has been primarily directed towards the state of Sonora, its indigenous people, their history, and how they have incorporated native resources into their lives. His books include

"Sonora. An intimate geography" (1996); "Scattered Round Stones. A Mayo village in Sonora, Mexico" (1998); "Guarijíos of the Sierra Madre. Hidden people of northwest Mexico" (2002); and "The Ópatas. In search of a Sonoran people" (2010). He has also written extensively on native uses of plants in Sonora. His Mayo Ethnobotany. Land, history, and traditional knowledge in northwest Mexico (2002, co-authored by Thomas R. Van Devender) combines ethnohistory and ethnobotany. His 2007 volume "The great cacti." Ethnobotany and biogeography of columnar cacti documents columnar cacti throughout the Americas, while a smaller work "The Organ Pipe Cactus" (2006) describes the natural history of the remarkable plant for which a U.S. Park Service National Monument is named. In addition, Yetman is author of numerous journal articles and book chapters. He frequently lectures on deserts, their people and their natural history. In addition to his writing, Yetman served for nine years as host for the PBS documentary television series The Desert Speaks and will host the upcoming PBS series In the Americas with David Yetman. He received an Emmy Award in 2007 for his documentary television work.

TCSS Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 4, 2011

2:30pm with dinner at 3:00pm

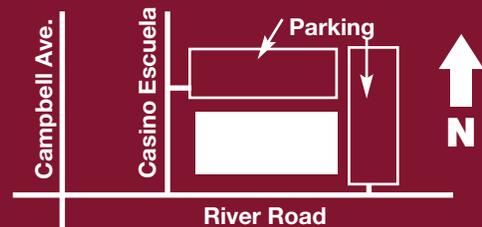
Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.

All the details will be available in the November mailing.

Don't forget you will need to RSVP

since space is limited.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



The holiday season is fast approaching which means it's time for Membership Renewal, Election of Officers and Board Members and our Holiday Party. Information about all these activities will be mailed to you in mid November. Mark your calendars for the Holiday Party on December 4, 2011 beginning at 2:30pm with dinner at 3:00pm at the Junior League facility. All the details will be available in the November mailing. Don't forget you will need to RSVP since space is limited.

The nominations committee has a slate of officers and Board nominees that will be presented at the November meeting. At that time additional nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as the nominee is present or has given written permission to be nominated. The nominations will be closed and a ballot will be prepared and sent to every current member. The ballots need to be returned by December 1, 2011. The results of the election will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation which will be held in conjunction with the Holiday Party.

The Board of Directors has approved the concept of multi-year memberships. Details will be on the 2012 membership form which is included in the November mailing. There will be no change in the cost of membership dues. Our society is the best bargain around.

A year ago we were talking about developing a cactus park. PIMA PRICKLY PARK (PPP) is now a reality. This has been a great cooperative effort between Pima County Government and TCSS. Folks, our county government works! We have a fifteen year agreement to plan, develop and maintain a cactus and succulent park on the 9.4 acre site in front of the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Administrative facilities. Now, wonderful specimens of cacti and other succulents can be replanted at PIMA PRICKLY PARK for everyone to admire and enjoy. You need to know that there is a lot more going on other than just planting rescued cacti and succulents. We are working on the final plans with the local Audubon Society for a Hummingbird Garden featuring cactus and succulents. We are working with the Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association and the North American Butterfly Association to have PPP a specifically designated butterfly garden with appropriate plants to attract butterflies. There are many other projects being on the drawing boards including the Saguaro Henge memorial, Agave garden, prickly pear demonstration garden and more. Your input and help is always appreciated.

A special thanks to John Swarbrick and all the members of his education committee for their participation in the BioBlitz at Saguaro National Park,

Thank you for all your support.
Dick Wiedhopf, President

A Roundtable Discussion on Haworthia and Gasteria

Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Our next roundtable will be a discussion of the genera Haworthia and Gasteria, and will take place on November 17 at the Junior League Building. For many succulent plant enthusiasts, plants of these two genera are among the most popular – many are easy to grow and are readily available. Many also do well as indoor houseplants, and since most are relatively small it is easy to develop a large collection in a relatively small place. Plan to come out to share your knowledge and experiences with these fascinating succulents, get your questions answered, and get to know some of the other club members a little better.

Dave Palzkill

Fall Garden Tour

The fall member garden tour held on October 8, was visited by 130 members and guests. The weather was perfect and gardens were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the 8 garden owners for sharing their passion for growing and displaying their cactus collections. Also, a big thanks to all the volunteers that made this event run smoothly. The next tour will be in the spring of 2012.

Garden Tour Committee

Free Plants

Plants for the Southwest is the source for this month's plants, an interesting selection of Lithops and Haworthia. Be sure to attend the November meeting to get your choice!

Library Update

Last month, a new program was implemented for the library. It worked out very well and will make checking out quicker. The library also received a number of books from Norma Beckman's estate. I will be putting them out in the coming months.

The Instant Guide to Healthy Cacti by John Pilbeam

This is pretty much a beginner's book, giving a brief description and care requirements of the plants. There is also a 'what goes wrong' section to help identify problems.

The Audubon Society Nature Guides Deserts

A field guide to North America's deserts detailing wildflowers, birds, reptiles, insects and more.

Lithops Flowering Stones by Desmond T. Cole & Naureen A. Cole

A Cactus & Co. book featuring excellent identifiable photographs of lithops. Arranged in alphabetical order, there is distribution information and descriptions. The first part of the book covers the morphology and cycles, names and nomenclature, classification, habitat and cultivation.

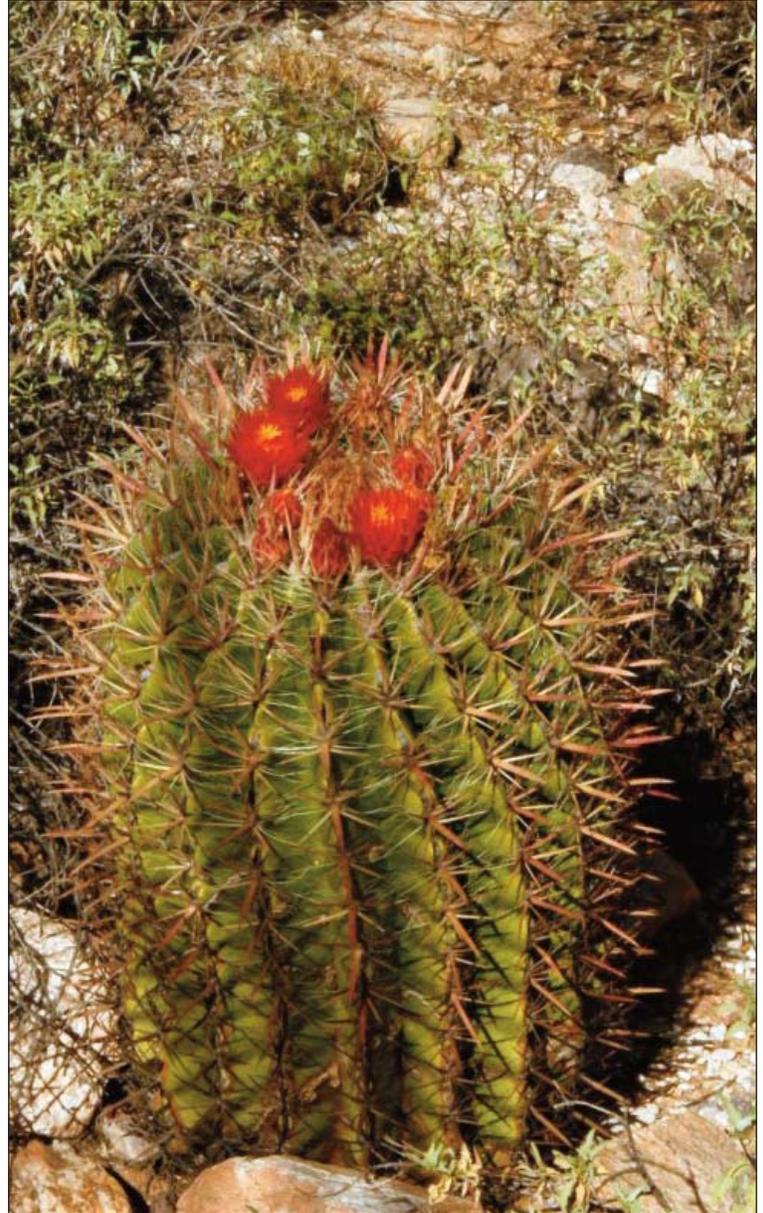
Joie Giunta

Ferocactus of the Month:

by Chris Monrad

A hybrid of uncertain heritage, this specimen has vivid red-orange flowers reminiscent of *Ferocactus pilosus*, but its thick,

straight spination and fall flowering season is not consistent with *F. pilosus*. This plant blooms from October into November.



TCSS BOARD

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Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun, and meet the
cactus and succulent community.

November Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with H, I, J, K, L, M, and N
please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your
generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

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Cacti Rescued 276 Rescues Accomplished

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

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Monthly Meeting, "Preserving the pitaya reserves:
Challenges from Sonora."
Presented by David Yetman

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Roundtable Discussion on Haworthia and Gasteria

A Southern Beach Opuntia

Behind the sand dunes a slightly hidden Opuntia can be found.
Opuntia pusilla was recently observed along the beaches of
North and South Carolina. I found this plant many years ago in
North Carolina. During that time it was considered to be
Opuntia drummondii the name is now *O. pusilla*.

Vonn Watkins



Photos by Vonn Watkins