



Desert Breeze

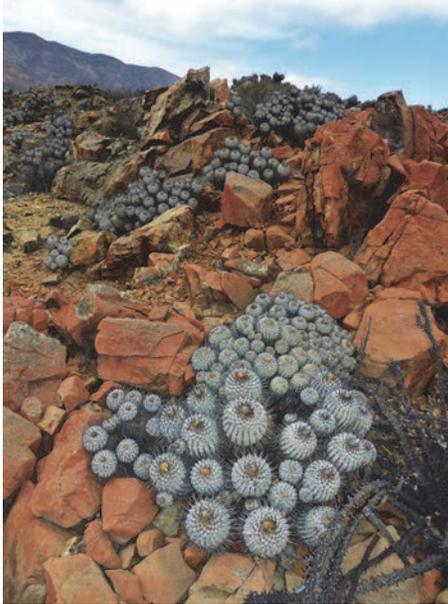
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

August 2017

Thursday, August 3 2017 at 7:00 pm

Shoestring Travels: Botanical Discoveries in Chile

Presented by Jan Emming



Copiapoa dealbata at Llanos de Challe National Park in the Atacama Desert

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.



Volcan Villarica of south-central Chile, with its glowing lava lake reflecting off of vapors and smoke emanating from the summit crater in this nighttime exposure.



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

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

Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:00pm
The New Rare and Seldom seen Cacti
and Succulents of Mexico
Presented by Wendell S. Minnich



President's Message

I am leaving for the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention in Tempe on Thursday, July 27, which makes it impossible to tell you about the convention in this message. A number of our members will be speaking and the Convention is hosted by our friends at the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. I felt it was appropriate that

we are represented and support both of these groups.

I hope you like the progress on making the speaker presentations at our monthly meetings available to members not in attendance or just to see the presentation again. Many thanks go to Peter Ertman and Doug Rowsell for making this a reality.

What a summer! The June heat was devastating to many of our plants, but the July rains have been spectacular and most of our plants now look fantastic. Tucson is covered with a green carpet. What a desert!

Exciting activities are coming up and we need your support and participation.

Blooming Barrel Sale

August 20, 2017 at the Amphi Center on 4th Ave. the same location as all of our sales. 8:00am to 10:00am.

Gates open at 7:00am. Other Vendor sales start at 7:30am

Native barrels are in bloom so you can pick your color from yellow to red. Other native plants will be available.

Good Times Silent Auction

September 10, 2017 at Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 E. 14th St. Set-up 1-3pm, auction starts at 3pm. Information will be sent out in early September. There are always at least 3 silent auctions.

After the 1st has ended the free area of plants, pottery and misc. will be open. There will be \$2, \$5, and \$10 tables to purchase plants etc. starting at 3pm Ice Cream and all the topping will be available free starting at 3pm.

Holiday Party

December 10, 2017 at Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 E. 14th St. Information etc. will be sent out after the November Meeting with Election Ballot and renewal notices.

Take a walk thru Pima Prickly Park. The first 5 years has really made a difference to this property and the next 5 will be even better. We will be plant the Ferocactus garden this fall and working on the Baja garden. Come out and play in the dirt with us.

Thank you for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

PIMA PRICKLY PARK



DID YOU KNOW?

Long before canteens were invented, Native Americans used "saguaro boots" to store or carry water!

With the deluge of rain during our monsoons, many of us are collecting and storing the rainwater to use for our plants and gardens.

But how much rain is too much rain for our succulents/cacti? As the plants' roots are close to the soil's surface, how do we prevent root rot from excessive rain?

Jessie Byrd shared that *there can be too much of a good thing and overwatering is the number one killer of cactus. Most Sonoran Desert species can stand the inundation that comes with monsoons, but drainage is critical. It's important to not plant cactus where water will stand around the root zone....Same for the cactus and succulents in containers at the nursery or home. Make sure they are draining properly.*

Another benefit to the free monsoon rain is the chance to give the irrigation system a break. When we've had sufficient rainfall, it's important to remember to adjust your irrigation clock so that plants don't get overwatered.

For those of you who are just beginning to learn about the care and cultivation of succulents/cacti, **Debra Lee Baldwin** has as a dynamic website where she addresses all things "succulent". Debra is known as the "queen of succulents". Her section on

"Post-Rain Must Do's for Succulent Gardens" offers guidelines and preventive measures for overwatering. (debraleebaldwin.com) ... Note: her suggestions are far more practical than the umbrella I used during one fierce downpour!

----Cari Wright

WHAT'S NEW?

Regular intervals of over a quarter inch of rainfall have been received in Pima Prickly Park and the Nursery. Joe Frannea has the official data.

Acknowledgement of Contributions

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends whose donations helped make this year a success. We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Pima Prickly Park

Geoffrey Roberts

Dave Palzkil

General Fund

Dan Birt



FROM THE FLORILEGIUM

The early life of Edward Palmer (1831–1911), from his first collecting expedition in Paraguay to his time with the Union Army, was described in the June *Desert Breeze*. Following the end of the Civil War, he traveled west to Arizona as a civilian interested only in collecting. In July of 1865, the 34-year-old Palmer arrived at Fort Whipple, the seat of government for the Arizona Territory. During his brief time there, he, along with the Fort's surgeon and naturalist, Dr. Elliot Coues, collected some 600 plant specimens.

Although the war had ended, the Army maintained a presence throughout the West to protect new settlements, mines, and commercial ventures from raids by the various native tribes. In October, Palmer re-entered the Army as assistant surgeon at Camp Lincoln, an outpost staffed by volunteers from Fort Whipple for protecting settlers in the Verde River area. Life at the Camp was difficult and dangerous, but Palmer nonetheless managed to amass a large collection of plants and other specimens. In venturing out from the post, Palmer encountered what was likely Montezuma's Castle. He was the first to describe the site, its geology, and construction, and he found evidence of cultivated corn and grapevines, and textiles made from local plants.

During a routine supply trip in the spring of 1866, Palmer was thrown from a mule and sustained a severe head injury that kept him from his duties for several weeks. To complicate matters, he suffered another attack of malaria that he had contracted in South America. He was transferred to Fort Whipple—but without his collection of specimens. Camp Lincoln's commanding officer promised to forward them to Palmer, but they were never sent. This is particularly unfortunate in the case of the maps and drawings that he had made of the cliff dwellings and the numerous artifacts that he had collected. In 1869, he returned to Camp Lincoln to locate his collection, only to find that they had been stolen or thrown away. Palmer wrote, "It is vexatious to lose things after they have been obtained at such great sacrifices and privations; and once lost may not be gotten again, especially the articles from the ruined buildings in rocky ledges."

Upon release from Fort Whipple's hospital, he was posted to Camp Grant, located at the confluence of the San Pedro River and Aravaipa Creek. On the way to the Camp, Palmer was pronounced "a very sick man" by a doctor in Tucson, but despite his continuing ill health, he managed during the spring and summer of 1867 to collect some 200 plant specimens and a large number of birds and mammals. In consideration of his ongoing illness, he requested release from his Army contract, which was granted in March. He remained in the Tucson area until the end of August during which time he continued his plant and ethnological collecting.

Palmer then traveled to California where he hoped to find a cure in Sonoma for his health problems. The result of that venture isn't recorded, but he apparently recovered sufficiently to travel back to Washington by boat to seek a new venture, one that turned out to be a particularly troubled year in Indian Territory as a doctor for the Kiowa-Comanche Agency in the Eureka Valley. After that unfortunate year, Palmer became a full-time collector, no longer having to juggle medical duties with his collecting. His many travels from that time to the end of his life

will be explored in the October *Desert Breeze*.

In 1869, employed by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Palmer traveled back to Arizona. Here he collected specimens of an agave that George Engelmann would name *Agave palmeri* (*Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis*, 1875). Engelmann's description was based on specimens collected by Arthur Schott (1855), Palmer (1869), and Dr. Joseph Rothrock (1874).

Margaret Pope's unique and beautiful illustration of the flowers of Palmer's agave shows the progression of the flowers as they develop. These flowers, which produce a significant amount of nectar at night, are primarily pollinated by bats. Plants bloom first at the southernmost parts of its range, and migrating bats from Mexico follow the northward-moving blooming of the agaves along their migration route.

A note about the illustration of *Abutilon palmeri* that appeared in the July *Desert Breeze*: The delicate green color of the plant's distinctive fuzzy leaves was not represented well. Please visit the Florilegium's website to see a more accurate version of Cherie Ann Gossett's drawing. There is a link to the article and Cheri's drawing on our home page (www.sonorandesertflorilegium.org).



Agave palmeri
flowers
© 2006
Margaret Pope

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Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, August 31 , 2017

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For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

Everyone is Welcome!

**Bring your friends, join in the fun and meet
the cactus and succulent community.**



Cacti Rescued - Since 1999
376 Rescues - 28,256 Volunteer Hours

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.

August 2017

Thursday, August 3, 2017 7:00pm

"Shoestring Travels: Botanical Discoveries in Chile"

Presented by Jan Emming

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Board meeting, Ward 6 City Council office at
3202 E First St. Tucson, AZ

Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 8:00am - 10:00 am

TCSS Blooming Barrel Sale.
4342 N. 4th Ave. Tucson, AZ

August Meeting Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
I - P, please bring your choice of refreshments to the
meeting. Your generous sharing will
be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!