

2017 CACSS Calendar

January 29, 2017	SPEAKER: Andy Siekkinen PROGRAM: <i>Terrestrial Bromeliads: A family with succulents long overlooked by the Cactus and Succulent Community</i> The Bromeliaceae is a New World family of plants that is extremely diverse in the ecological riches it fills—which I like to think of a bridging the worlds of orchids and cactus. This talk will give an introduction to the family and an overview of its several succulent genera. A particular focus will be plants that are generally smaller and well suited for growing in pots that can be moved for protection in the winter.
February 26, 2017 2018	SPEAKER: Karen Zimmerman, Succulent Plant Propagator at The Huntington Desert Collections Program: <i>Aloes on my mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time</i> I start with an overview of the genus aloe; distribution and diversity of species. I talk a little about the work of hybridizers up to the present, with a special mention about Kelly Griffin, my inspiration. I show parent plants and offspring, some that became good enough to name and distribute, and others that became disappointments. Then I show some promising babies and future possibilities.
March 26, 2017	SPEAKER: Lucas C. Majure, Ph.D. Biologist of New World Succulents, Desert Botanical Garden Program: <i>Systematics of the Cacti of Cuba and Hispaniola</i> The Greater Antilles, including Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica and Puerto Rico are home to a wide diversity of cacti. The two islands with the highest number of species are Cuba with around 40 species followed by Hispaniola with around 30 species of cacti. Although we have a basic understanding of what species occur on the islands and how rare and/or common they are, there have been no comprehensive systematic studies detailing evolutionary relationships and actual species limits. I'll be outlining ongoing projects on both Cuba and Hispaniola to better understand the cacti of those islands, and I will also underscore the logistical complexities of working in those areas.
April 7, 8, 9, 2017	Our 2017 Annual Show and Sale will be open to the public Friday and Saturday, April 7 & 8, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and Sunday, April 9, 9 AM - 4 PM. The Show and Sale is in Dorrance Hall and the patio area outside of the hall at the Desert Botanical Garden. This is a great opportunity to see and buy unusual plants, pots and other plant related items.
Dorrance Hall and Boppart Terrace	
May 21, 2017	SPEAKER: Lucas C. Majure, Ph.D. Biologist of New World Succulents, Desert Botanical Garden Program: <i>Systematics of the Cacti of Cuba and Hispaniola</i> The Greater Antilles, including Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica and Puerto Rico are home to a wide diversity of cacti. The two islands with the highest number of species are Cuba with around 40 species followed by Hispaniola with around 30 species of cacti. Although we have a

basic understanding of what species occur on the islands and how rare and/or common they are, there have been no comprehensive systematic studies detailing evolutionary relationships and actual species limits. I'll be outlining ongoing projects on both Cuba and Hispaniola to better understand the cacti of those islands, and I will also underscore the logistical complexities of working in those areas.

June 25, 2017	Speaker: Peter Breslin, CACSS member Program: <i>New Tools to Save Vanishing Plants: Cutting Edge Conservation Biology Strategies for the Cactaceae</i> A recent assessment of the Cactaceae by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List found that nearly one third of all cactus species are at risk for extinction. What are some of the factors threatening cactus species in habitat and what are some of the factors threatening cactus species in habitat and what are some new, high tech methods for developing conservation plans for at risk taxa? Peter Breslin is currently studying these methods, as applies to the restricted island endemic, <i>Cochemiea halei</i> , a denizen of the archipelago of islands in the Pacific Ocean at the Bahia Magdalena. His PhD research at Arizona State University has evolved new techniques in assessing both human and natural threats to isolated cactus species and the development of conservation plans especially tailored to the unique population biology and life cycles of cacti. This presentation will provide an overview of the habitats of Magdalena and Isla Margarita and a look at how we can improve the odds for threatened cacti in this region and other locales. .
July 26 – 30, 2017	CSSA 37th Biennial Convention hosted by the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Tempe Mission Palms Hotel	
August 27, 2017	Speaker: Cliff Fielding, CACSS member Program: <i>Atacama Extreme Desert Amazing Plants</i> The discussion will include the very arid climate, the amazing plants and how to grow them in Phoenix. There will be a large 3D map of the area with localities of plants represented by actual plants. There will also be a display of various live plants with exposed roots. The photos will include local plants and habitat photos.
September 24, 2017	Speaker: Jon Rebman, PhD, Curator of Botany, San Diego Natural History Museum Program: <i>The Flora of Baja California Sur, with emphasis on new botanical discoveries and succulent plants</i> Botanical surveys and collecting expeditions in Baja California are important scientific endeavors that are conducted in order to improve our natural history of little-known regions, make new botany discoveries, facilitate conservation awareness, and improve binational collaboration. Over the last couple years, Dr. Rebman has been involved in various scientific expeditions to remote parts of the Baja California region and its adjacent islands and has also lived in LaPaz for ten months from April 2015 to June 2016, on a remote work assignment for the San Diego Natural History Museum. During

this time on on these trips, some significant botanical discoveries have been made; new species encountered and connect how they relate to improving our knowledge of the flora as a whole. The State of Baja California Sur (BCS) supports a wealth of species diversity in many different plant families. It is estimated that the flora of the state consists of approximately 2,200 plant taxa of which almost 600 (27%) are known only from (endemic to) the region. Many of the plants from the region are distinctive, beautiful and stretch the imagination in respect to plant form and structure. For example, the Creeping Devil (*Stenocereus eruca*), *Cochemiea halei*, *Morangaya pensilis*, recently described elephant trees (*Bursera spp.*), tree yuccas (*Yucca valida*), succulent bromeliads (*Hectia montana*), and much more of the fantastic flora of the BCS. With more than 300 succulent plant taxa present on the peninsula and adjacent islands and a rather high rate of endemism, the cacti and succulents of the Baja California region are conspicuous and truly unique part of the peninsula's natural history.

Speaker: S. H. Sohmer, PhD, FLS

Program: The Wonders of Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA)

Dr. Sohmer is the new Director of BTA and he will do an introductory talk on the arboretum during the business portion of our meeting.

October 29, 2017

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Dorrance Hall

Annual Mega Auction and Silent Auction

Plants Accepted from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Auction begins at 2:00 PM.

November 19, 2017

Speaker: Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach, Denver Botanical Gardens

Program: Cacti and Succulents from Botanical Gardens around the World

With our rich bounty of succulents in the Southwest, we can sometimes forget that there is a passion for cacti and succulents around the world. Even Central Arizona Gardeners might be surprised at what is being grown not just in the great public gardens or Europe, but across Eurasia and in the Southern Hemisphere as well. We're living in the "Age of the Succulent" and cacti and succulents figure prominently in collections and public gardens around the world. I've been fortunate to visit quite a few of these over the decades, and will share some of those that interested me most in the talk.

December 10, 2017

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Annual Holiday Party

This is a member and guest only event. Please check your newsletter for details and location. If you are attending please RSVP to Sue Glenn.