

## **A Mexico Adventure, presented by Greg Starr**

Join Greg Starr for an evening tour of Mexican cacti and succulents. He will present a visual feast of some way cool cacti and succulents, and who knows, maybe even a “leafy” plant or two to complete the Mexico experience. The country is vast and varied, encompassing high, cool mountains; hot deserts, and humid tropics. The flora and fauna are incredible, amazing, and beautiful. There is so much diversity found south of the border that covering even one state thoroughly would take a lifetime of presentations, but we will focus on some of the most intriguing plants and maybe even an animal or two in the eastern part of the country. Undoubtedly we will visit some of the most iconic and most cryptic figures of the country, including large, candelabra cacti, bloomin’ barrels, tiny cacti and maybe even an agave or two.

Greg will share some of his pictures and experiences searching high and low for hard to find and recently discovered cacti, some buried in cliff faces, others mimicking the surrounding landscape, and others presenting themselves for all the world to see.

Greg has been traveling to Mexico since 1981 and with his propensity to take multiple photos of nearly all the plants at each stop (it has been said that he takes 360 pictures of each plant since there are 360 degrees in a circle); it’s no wonder that he is a huge fan of the digital format and very large external hard drives. So sit back and enjoy the photos of fantastic plants found in this incredibly wonderful and amazing country.

**Greg** was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, and has grown to love the desert and its flora and fauna. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, and after working in the landscape industry he went back to the University to study Botany and further his education in horticulture. He emerged from the University in 1985 with a Master of Science in Horticulture with a special emphasis on botany.

He opened Starr Nursery in the summer of 1985, and has specialized in low water use plants for landscaping in southern Arizona. Greg has traveled extensively in Mexico and the southwestern United States to study the plants for their potential landscape use in desert regions of the world.

Greg’s book, **Cool Plants for Hot Gardens**, was released at the end of April 2009. His second book, titled **Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers**, was released in early May of 2012. He is also a co-author for the upcoming **Field Guide to the Cactus and Other Succulents of Arizona** which was published in February 2015.

Greg spends most of his days tapping at the computer hoping another book will take shape, preparing PowerPoint presentations and tending to Starr Nursery, specializing in Agaves and related plants as well as other succulents and new introductions of perennials, flowering shrubs, and small trees from arid and semi-arid regions around the world.