

Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera; Argentina and Chile, by Rob Skillin

This month's program will feature the cacti from the region of the Andes Mountains of Argentina, Chile and Bolivia – spanning both sides of the Andes – from the Atacama Desert on the west, to the foothills above the Argentinian pampas on the east.

I've made several trips through South America, from which I have put together this program of habitat shots of cacti ranging from the smallest of the small (*Blossfeldia liliputana* and *Copiapoa laui*) to the truly large (*Trichocereus* and *Eulychnia*) – with a few succulents thrown in for good measure. I have been growing cacti and succulents for nearly 40 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time, starting with the San Diego C&SS in the 1970's, then to the Santa Barbara and Bakersfield clubs. I currently belong to the Central Coast C&SS of which I was a founding member, first President and first Show and Sale Chairman. I have also been involved with the CSSA as a member of its Board of Directors, and am a CSSA certified Judge.

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*.