

## **The Future of the Giant Saguaro**

The past decade or so has seen a renaissance of saguaro studies, with more than a dozen studies on the saguaro and its response to the environment in a time of rapid change being published. People have been noticing heat stress, drought stress, and other signs of decline of saguaros in their neighborhoods. These signs include increased mortality, loss of arms, increased vulnerability to being blown over by wind, and more black oozing rot. Scientists are still working to figure out exactly what is causing these signs of decline, but preliminary findings suggest that drought and hotter temperatures over the summer, especially hot summer nights, are leading to stress for the saguaro. In this talk, Peter Breslin outlines the life history, ecology, and importance of the saguaro cactus, and presents the latest knowledge of what the future may hold for this iconic giant cactus.