

Erik is a Renal Dietitian who moved to NM in 2012 to work with the Native Americans of the SW. His interest in Native American culture, plants and photography have allowed for many long hikes and pictures on the Navajo and Zuni Reservations. Fellow club member Steven Brack stated his pictures have identified cacti on the Zuni Reservation that were not known to be there.

Other agriculture interests are collecting and growing Native American Heritage vegetables. He has been working with the Native Seeds Search and the Zuni Nation to help promote growing and seed saving their heritage vegetables. His past Agricultural hobbies included raising exotic finch from Australia and pheasants from China and India.

Erik's interest in succulents picked up in 2010. Unfortunately, most of his collection froze to death in the back of his moving truck in December 2012.

His interest in the species *Echeveria Agavoides* started in 2013. Unfortunately, none of the nursery's had them for sale. They were also hard to find on eBay. He finally purchased one in 2014. As time went on he made contacts overseas and was able to expand his collection of many rare *Agavoides* Cultivars. Many of his *Agavoides* are virtually impossible to find in the US. He has learned how to cultivate them and has several seedlings growing now. Future goals are to produce his own cultivars.

Erik's private plant succulent collection is mostly comprised of *Agavoides*, *Lithops* and *Haworthia maughanii/truncata*. He joined the Cactus and Succulent Society and started showing his plants in 2015 to network with other succulent aficionados. In 2019 Steven Brack

asked him to share his succulents with other CSS members via power point lectures.