



# Thorny Issues

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January Program and Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2009

7pm

## Agave Fiber Crafts in Guatemala and Ecuador

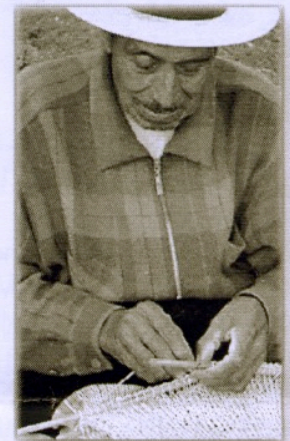
Presented by Kathleen Mossman Vitale

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society invites you to a special showing of film clips planned for a documentary under development. Special guest, Kathleen Mossman Vitale, co-founder and CEO of the nonprofit Endangered Threads Documentaries, will give a presentation on Agave Fiber Crafts in Guatemala and Ecuador at our January 26th meeting.

Indigenous people of the Americas have used fibers from plants in the Agave family to make utilitarian objects for many centuries, including shoes, rope, mats and carrying bags. Kathleen has filmed native people in the highlands of Guatemala and Ecuador for her study of these endangered crafts. Her travels have taken her to areas where indigenous languages predominate, and where artisans use implements passed down through the centuries.

Kathleen and her husband, Paul, were Peace Corps Volunteers in Ecuador in the early 60s. After their tour was over, they returned to Ecuador where the U.S. Foreign Service employed Paul. Subsequent assignments placed them in South America for a total of 13 years. Kathleen learned her love of textiles from her mother, who collected worldwide, and whose collection was donated to the Phoebe Hearst Museum at UC Berkeley. Previous documentaries in this series by Kathleen are *Splendors in the Highlands: Maya Weavers of Guatemala* and *A Century of Color: Maya Weaving and Textiles*.

Kathleen will display present day samples of Agave fiber crafts from Guatemala and Ecuador. Please feel free to bring any samples of your own. Questions should be directed to Marilyn Vilas, 530-753-7011 or nedmar@omsoft.com.



Lucus Puzul Mendoza knitting an agave fiber bag.

COME PREPARED FOR A UNIQUE EVENING!

Marilynn Vilas

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### Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

We meet the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in Sacramento.

The Center's phone number is (916) 264-8800.

There is no meeting held in December.

The public is warmly invited to any meeting.

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

