

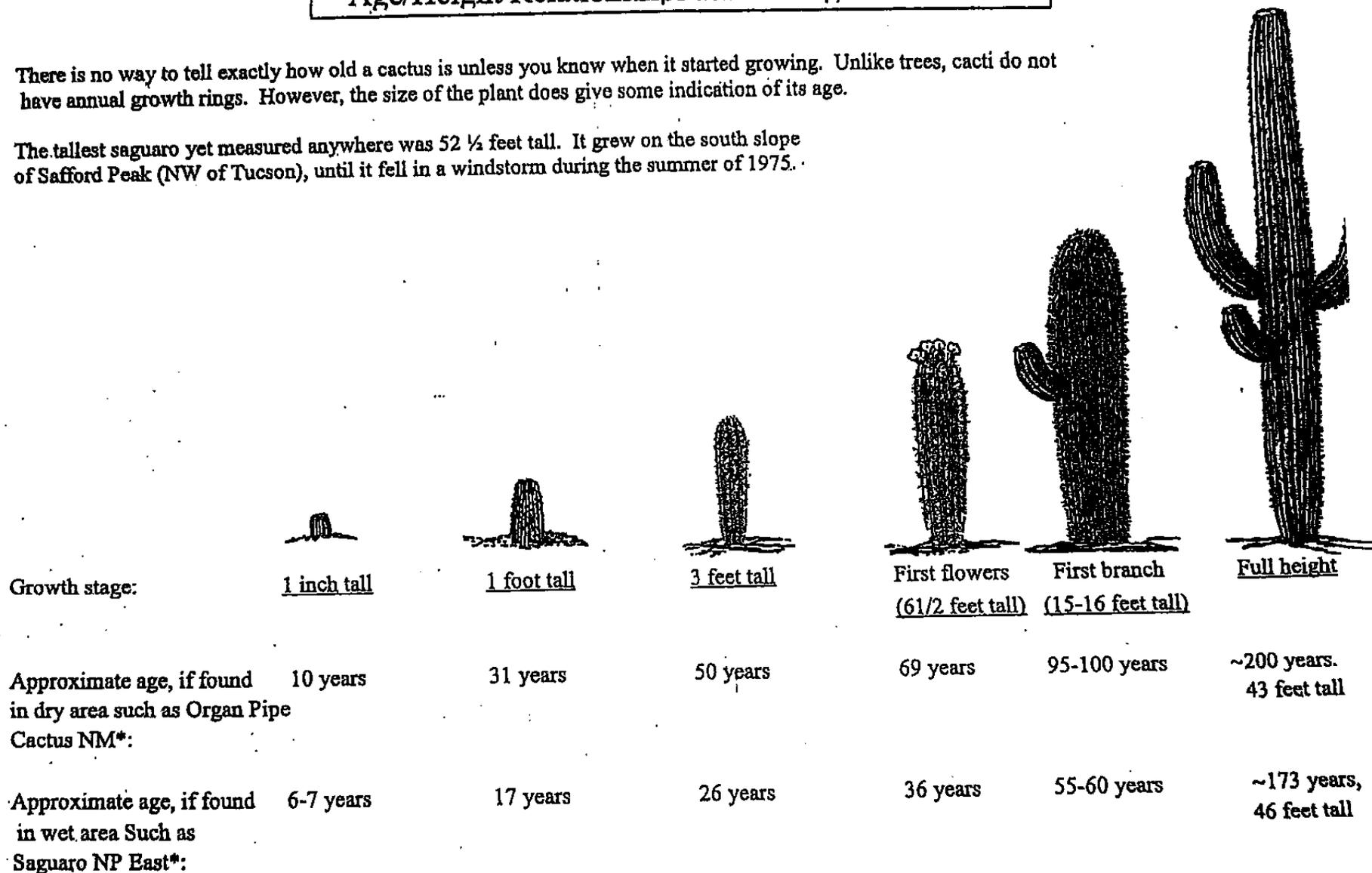


Two scenes from a hike in Sabino Canyon on Feb. 4, 2007

Age/Height Relationships for the Saguaro Cactus

There is no way to tell exactly how old a cactus is unless you know when it started growing. Unlike trees, cacti do not have annual growth rings. However, the size of the plant does give some indication of its age.

The tallest saguaro yet measured anywhere was 52 ½ feet tall. It grew on the south slope of Safford Peak (NW of Tucson), until it fell in a windstorm during the summer of 1975.



*All data from studies done by Warren F. Steenbergh and Charles H. Lowe as recorded in *Ecology of the Saguaro: III, 1983*. Data for Organ Pipe comes from saguaros growing the mouth of Alamo Canyon. (The tallest of these saguaros was actually about 31 feet tall and approximately 160 years old.)



On a trail such as the one pictured on the left my technique for using the WeedTwister as a walking stick is to place it in front and to the left or right depending on which hand used then...



...walk forward passing the WeedTwister usually two and one half steps before swinging it forward and repeating the motion. Note that I find carrying it as if I were using a pencil works very well. This also allows for an easy slide up and down the shaft depending on the steepness or shallowness of the terrain on each side of a trail.







Shown is a good technique for hiking down steep step like areas on a trail. Place the WeedTwister, use it for balance and then walk past it finally bring it forward for the next similar area to navigate or to take up normal walking.



Close up pictures of my grip technique.