

# Saguaro Discovery Trail

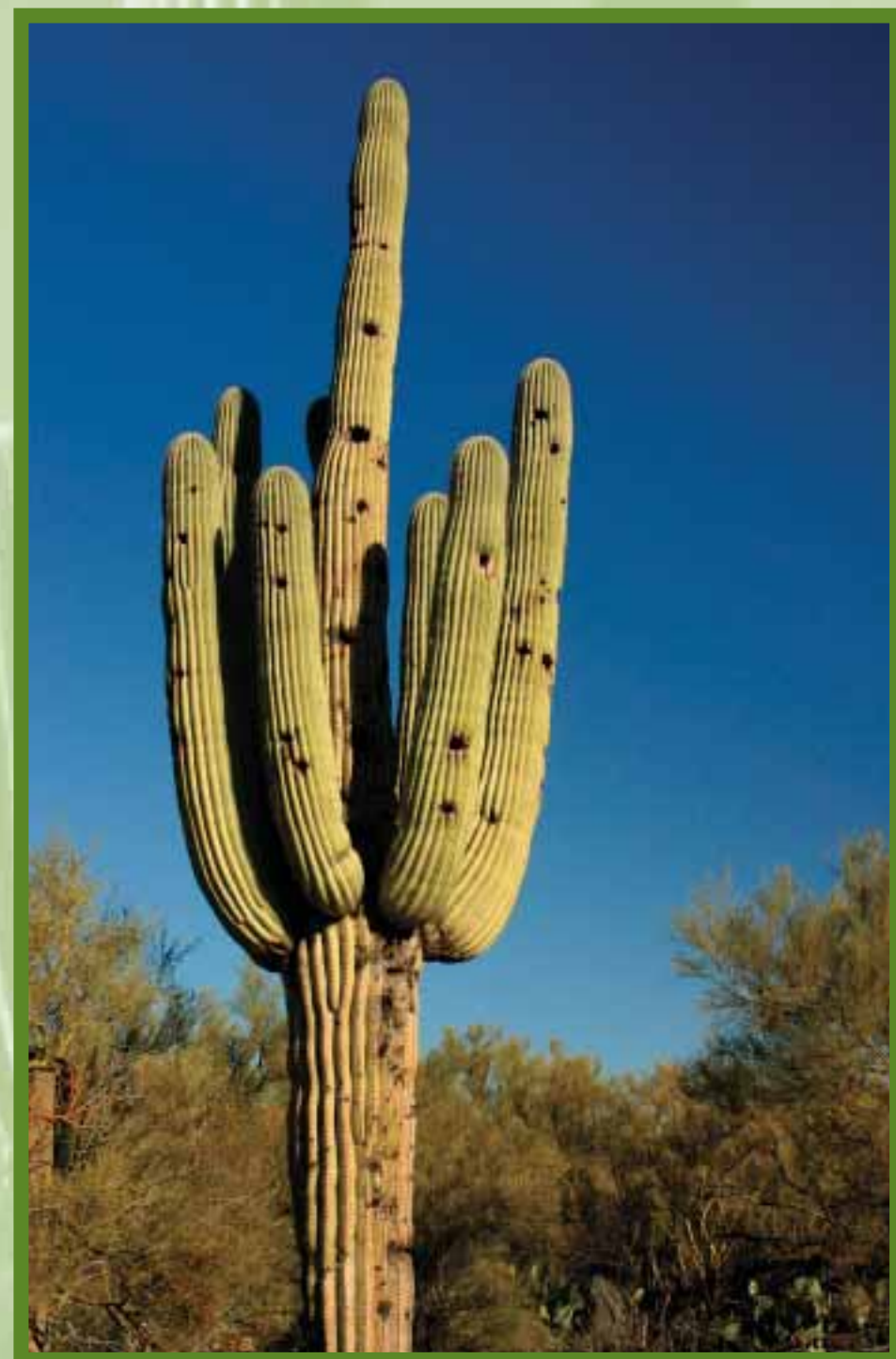
*"It is this strange plant that most strongly impresses upon the mind of the traveler that this is another world!"*

The year was 1907 and explorer William Hornaday had just seen the Sonoran Desert's saguaro cacti for the first time.

*Carnegiea gigantea*, the United States' largest cactus, remains today the characteristic and visually dominant plant of much of the Sonoran Desert. As silent sentinels, countless saguaros tower over their native land—an area like no other place on the planet.



**Travel the trail ahead** to learn about saguaros and their vital role in the lives of their long-time neighbors, the Tohono O'odham, or Desert People. Award-winning artist **Michael Chiago** painted the watercolors you will see. His work, which has been displayed throughout the United States and abroad, portrays the Desert People's traditional way of life and reflects his pride in his Tohono O'odham heritage.



*Carnegiea gigantea*  
(scientific name)

**Saguaro**  
(English & Spanish, pronounced sah-wah-ro)

**Ha:sañ**  
(Tohono O'odham)



*The big mothers stand there.  
The big mothers stand there.  
Whitely they flower.  
Black (the blossoms) dry.  
Red they ripen.*

*— A growing song for giant cactus*

