



Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals

“An Otherworldly Species: Joshua Trees and the Conservation-Climate Dilemma”

Lekan, Thomas M.



Photo by Cedric Letsch on [Unsplash](#).

Lekan, Thomas M. “An Otherworldly Species: Joshua Trees and the Conservation-Climate Dilemma.” *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, no. 1 (July 2022).

About 210 km east of Los Angeles, along the boundary of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, stands a national park dedicated to the American Southwest’s most threatened botanical icon: the Joshua tree. With their shaggy bark, clusters of spiked leaves, and gnarled limbs reaching over 30 feet high, these trees (actually, they are succulents related to yuccas: *Yucca brevifolia*) reminded

nineteenth-century Mormons of the biblical prophet Joshua with his arms stretched out in supplication—a gesture that befits these whimsical-looking and imperiled plants. (From the article)

This article was originally published in *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*. The journal is an online publication featuring peer-reviewed articles, creative nonfiction, and artistic contributions that showcase the work of the Rachel Carson Center and its community across the world.

2022 Thomas M. Lekan



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

This license refers only to the text and does not include any image rights.

Please see captions in the PDF for individual licenses.

Download:

PDF:

https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/lekan_an_otherworldly_species_springs_2022_1.pdf

Related links:

- *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*
<https://springs-rcc.org>

Websites linked in this text:

- <https://springs-rcc.org/>

Websites linked in image captions:

- <https://unsplash.com/photos/FYDNbPE9Bw4/>