



**“Jake Ryan Park”** in Sunmor is named after two smiling Bichon Frise, Jake Gyllenhaal and Ryan Gosling, who have made this yard their playground. This “Park” is two years old and its theme is a “natural desert urban backyard” and is also a studio for Gary’s art photography. Loving plants from college days in Illinois and majoring in botany led Gary to a career as a biology teacher and environmentalist, and then to becoming a photographer of the natural environment.

After moving to Palm Springs 17 years ago, and being unfamiliar with its native plant life, he originally removed an aged backyard and replaced it with a croquet lawn. As the drought compelled him to reconsider water usage, he was determined to create a new backyard garden with desert friendly plants that let his imagination run free, be a sanctuary in his later years, be a product of a child’s imagination and whimsy and show a botanist’s love and appreciation of plants and the perseverance it takes to create a lasting garden. This garden is my creation but my friend Paul Ortega has contributed wise counsel and Ted Showalter and his Green Scene Landscaping team have been integral to the planting and hardscaping work. Water usage in the garden has declined by about 60% since planting.

*Wander the garden paths and take time to enjoy my garden.*

1. **Baja Spurge**, *Euphorbia xantii* is a native to Baja California to 6ft that spreads by rhizomes, long flowering season of dainty white to pink bracts winter through summer, thrives by the sea in rocky soil, does well in sandy soil and full sun, fast grower, drought tolerant, insignificant leaves, cold tolerant to 30°. Euphorbia sap is caustic and can be irritating to the skin or toxic if ingested. The word Euphorbia dates to Roman times and Pliny the Elder and the word Spurge dates to the Old French word *espurgier* meaning “to purge”.
2. **Ocotillo**, *Fouquieria Splendens*, a semi-evergreen, up to 20ft, open vase-shaped shrub native to the Southwest and Northern Mexico. It leafs out after rainfall with ovoid leaves at the base of its spines, loses its leaves in periods of drought and blooms mostly in spring and summer with bright red tubular flowers. Hummingbirds and carpenter bees are its pollinators and it needs well drained soil and more water than other ocotillo species.
3. **Mexican Ocotillo**, *Fouquieria macdougalii*, a semi-evergreen, upright growth on thorny branches up to 20ft tall and 4ft wide, shrub native to Sonora, Mexico. Loses its ovoid leaves in periods of drought, bright red tubular flowers bloom in spring, full sun, reflective heat, drought tolerant, well drained sandy or rocky soil. Attracts hummingbirds, slow grower and cold tolerant to 20°. *Note the Madagascar False Ocotillo, Alluaudia against the wall to right.*
4. **California Evening Primrose**, *Oenothera californica* is native to the Southwest deserts, chaparral and woodland ecosystems below 8000ft. It is a fragrant spreading perennial to 30” and does well on slopes, full sun, drought tolerant when established, white to pink flowers, great accent plant.
5. **Valentine Plant**, *Eremophila maculata Valentine*<sup>™</sup> is a small fast-growing evergreen shrub to 5ft and 6ft wide. A dramatic bloomer for the winter garden with masses of red blooms opening to pink flowers and has dark green foliage rest of year. Stays rounded but give it room to grow. Moderate and regular water keeps foliage dark green Full sun and well-drained soil, cold and frost tolerant.



6. **Mexican Firecracker Bush or Mexican Honeysuckle**, *Justicia spicigera* is a hummingbird favorite native to C America to 4ft. Orange blooms from spring to fall. Evergreen with glossy green leaves. Fast grower with moderate water and good drainage. Part shade.
7. **Felt Plant**, *Kalanchoe beharens* is a member of the *Kalanchoe* family native to southern Madagascar to 5-10ft with velvety green leaves covered in brown hairs. The deeply cut leaves grown in pairs along the stem with new leaves lighter in color. Protect from full summer sun. Part shade. Moderate water in well-drained soil.
8. **Desert Willow**, *Chilopsis linearis* 'Lucretia Hamilton' is a deciduous west Texas native to 18ft. A delicate shaped tree that attracts finches and hummingbirds. Drought tolerant. Blooms on new wood spring to fall. Not related to the Willow although it grows on riverbanks and washes. This variety has more compact growth, burgundy flowers and smaller size than the white or pink flowering varieties.
9. **MacDougals Giant Century Plant**, *Furcraea macdougallii* is the largest of the agave species and can grow to 20ft tall in its native Oaxaca, Mexico. In the garden it grows to 10ft with a 20ft bloom spike and bubs at the base. Full sun, drought and light frost tolerant. A dramatic addition to the garden.
10. **Blue Elf Aloe**, *Aloe v.* "Blue Elf" is a clumping aloe with blue-gray foliage and bright red-orange flowers to 2ft wide. A dramatic addition to our winter garden, blooms thru spring. Beautiful massed or in a single clump, blooms are striking from afar. Slow grower, full sun, well-drained soil, cold and frost tolerant. Blue Elf can handle the heat of our summer without burning. It is a hummingbird favorite.
11. **Apache Plume**, *Fallugia paradoxa* is a semi-deciduous shrub native to the SW to 8,000 ft. It is known for its dramatic plume-shaped seed heads that last long on the plant but it also has beautiful dainty white flowers in the Spring, full sun, drought tolerant, rocky soil and cold tolerant to below freezing.
12. **Saguaro Cactus**, *Carnegiea gigantea* is a tree-like columnar cactus native to the Sonoran desert (and California's Imperial county) to 70ft. The palo verde and saguaro have a symbiotic relationship - the tree shades the young cactus and the cactus grows into the trees space at the end of its life cycle. Saguaro may take up to 75 years to develop arms and live to 300 years and 10 years to grow an initial foot. Birds such as Gila woodpeckers, hawks, owls and bald eagles nest in the saguaro and it is a rich habitat for other desert creatures that feed on its fruit and seeds.
13. **Chocolate flower**, *Berlandiera lyrata* is a small perennial native to the SW and part of the sunflower family, its name comes from the chocolate scent its flowers exude during the evening and the taste of its stamen, drought tolerant, full sun, well-drained soil, to 7,000 ft. Deadhead to prolong Spring bloom season.
14. **Blue Daze**, *Evolvulus glomerata* 'Blue Daze' is a flexible trailing perennial equally at home in the ground or in a pot to 1ft by 2 ft wide. Native from Texas to South Dakota, gray-green hairy foliage helps it tolerate full sun and heat in the desert, beautiful cornflower blue flowers in spring and summer. Well-drained soil, moderate water, good ground cover plant, take care to water when in a pot. Part of Morning Glory family.
15. **Desert Rose**, *Adenium obesum* has a very large caudex at its base to 1ft in diameter and is multi-branched. It has bright red or pink flowers and glossy green leaves. Related to the *Pachypodium* and *Oleander* and is native to parts of Africa and Arabia. Water when soil is dry. Not frost tolerant and dormant during winter. Used as a bonsai, wash hands thoroughly before touching eyes after handling.
16. **Sunset Aloe**, *Aloe dorotheae* is small clumping aloe native to Tanzania but can do well in our desert with partial shade to full sun, it has lime green to red leaves depending on the amount of sun, drought tolerant, well drained rocky soil, take care not to over water. It is a dramatic addition to the garden and will form clumps over time, dainty Spring flowers on delicate stalk.



This Araby garden is called **“Las Fuentes”** and dates from 2004 and is a desert garden designed to replace mostly lawn and ficus trees that dominated the site. Work progressed slowly over 3 years as we removed plant material, installed a new driveway, sidewalks, walls, water features and a front gate. We brought in new soil, received free boulders from down the road at Luminaire, installed a drip system and planted the front garden designed by Joe Hartman.

After the front garden was complete I re-developed the rest of the property in the same style with an emphasis on water features, flowering plants and play areas for my Bed and Breakfast guests. Water savings have been achieved by removing sprinklers from the sport lawn, which have resulted in 50% savings. Originally over 250 plants we planted onsite with some replaced over the years due to age.

*My motivation has always been simply “a love of colorful desert plants.”*

1. **Indian Blanket Flower**, *Gaillardia pulchella* is a perennial native to the central U.S. mounding to 2ft. Readily reseeds or divide every couple of years. Full sun and drought tolerant. Deadhead to prolong flowering. New varieties have added more color choices and double blooms, all bright and happy.
2. **Bottlebrush**, *Callistemon 'Little John'* is a low growing shrub native to Australia. It has fluffy red flowers most of the year with gray-green leaves to 3ft tall and 3.5ft wide. Full sun to part shade and most soil conditions. Frost tolerant to 25° and drought tolerant when established. Another hummingbird favorite, does well from the desert to the coast.
3. **Angelita Daisy**, *Hymenoxys (Tetraneuris) acaulis* is a prolific bloomer native to the Southwest. Mounding perennial with yellow daisies on long stems year-round. Drought and cold tolerant with moderate water, sun to part shade. Deadhead to keep neat. Small plant with bright and happy impact.
4. **Desert Cassia**, *Cassia nemophila (Senna artemisioides filifolia)* is an evergreen feathery shrub native to Australia fast-growing to 6ft. Drought and cold tolerant. Naturally rounded shape, if needed prune when dormant. Cup-shaped yellow flowers on leaf tips late winter to summer, seed pods follow.
5. **Desert Milkweed**, *Asclepias subulata* is an upright perennial native to the deserts of the Southwest and Mexico to 4ft tall and wide. Grows in washes and on rocky slopes. Tall gray-green stems from crown of plant with creamy yellow flowers from spring to fall and seed pods to follow. Monarch butterfly food. Drought, cold and poor soil tolerant. Slow-grower. Tiny leaves appear after rainfall and fall off soon after, photosynthesis is through stems.
6. **Smoke Tree**, *Psoralea argophylla* is a tree of the pea family native to our desert washes and Baja California. The Smoke tree propagates where its seeds can be washed and scarred by rocks in the wash. From a distance it looks like smoke in the sky with its early summer bloom of deep blue flowers. The branches are covered with hairs. Drought tolerant when established. A true beauty in the desert garden.
7. **Desert Mallow**, *Sphaeralcea ambigua* also know as **Apricot Mallow** or **Globe Mallow** is native to our local deserts to 3ft tall by 3ft wide. Prolific orange blooms with gray-green hairy leaves, full sun to part shade, well-drained soil and drought tolerant when established. Long blooming season begins in spring.



8. **Texas Mountain Laurel**, *Sophora secundiflora* is a slow-growing multi-trunked shrub to small tree native to the SW to 15 ft tall but can get twice as tall, it is part of the pea family, showy fragrant blue flowers in Spring, full sun, well-drained soil and drought tolerant when established, poisonous red berries, patio-sized interest tree.
9. **Hong Kong Orchid Tree**, *Bauhinia x blakeana* has been in cultivation in Hong Kong since the early 1900's, it has heart-shaped leaves that give it year round interest and showy pink orchid-shaped flowers in Spring, it is mostly propagated by cuttings. Orchid Trees were popular trees in mid-century Palm Springs, there are still a number to be seen in older neighborhoods downtown and note the old Orchid Tree Inn in the Tennis Club neighborhood.
10. **Sweet Acacia**, *Acacia farnesiana* is a member of the mimosa family with tiny yellow puff ball flowers that flowers in winter, a moderate growing tree to 25ft with a flat crown. Is drought tolerant in full sun with well-drained soil. Shape when young. Grown for use as perfume essence in Europe and has food, dye and traditional medicinal uses in various cultures as this tree is widely dispersed around the world.
11. **Boojum Tree**, *Fouquieria columnaris* is a member of the ocotillo family and native to Baja California to 65ft.. The name Boojum is from the Lewis Carroll poem "The Hunting of the Snark". Small yellowish flowers spring to fall with a honey scent. Branches at right angles and its green stems carry out photosynthesis like the ocotillo. It can easily live to 100 years if not damaged by wind. Full sun.
12. **Cardboard Cycad**, *Zamia furfuracea* is a cycad native to Mexico to 3ft by 6ft wide and is endangered in the wild. The cycad is not closely related to the palm and fern, it is a gymnosperm and dioecious with the male bearing cones and the female flowers, it is pollinated by insects. Sandy and well-drained soil with full sun to part shade, protect from frost, drought tolerant when established. Highly toxic to humans and animals if ingested. *Look for lots more Cycads at Colony 29.*
13. **Sago Palm**, *Cycas revoluta* is a cycad to 20ft, normal lifespan of 50-100 years but can live for 1000 years. The trunk may branch out or offset, it is a nitrogen fixer and evergreen. The cycad is not closely related to the palm and fern, it is a gymnosperm and dioecious with the male bearing cones and the female flowers, it is pollinated by insects. Sandy and well-drained soil with full sun to part shade, frost and drought tolerant when established. It flourishes in our desert and in temperate and subtropical climates. It is called a living fossil as it has hardly changed since the Jurassic period and dates to 280 million years. Highly toxic to humans and animals if ingested.
14. **San Marcos Hibiscus**, *Gossypium harknessii* is a Baja California native evergreen shrub with shiny heart-shaped leaves to 4ft spread. A member of the mallow family it has lemon-yellow flowers with 5 red dots from late spring to fall. Full Sun to part shade in well-drained soil. Uncommon star for the garden.
15. **Hairbrush or Indian Comb Cactus**, *Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum* is a branching upright cactus native to Western Mexico to 40 ft tall, its white flowers are pollinated by bats in some climates and by daylight pollinators in others, full sun and well-drained soil, does well in containers (this one was moved from Long Beach when the owner purchased the property), protect with partial shade when young. The dried fruit have been used as hair combs and native people used this cactus for food and medicinal purposes.
16. **Paper Cactus**, *Tephrocactus articulatus var. papyracanthus* is cactus native to S America and does well in our desert 6 to 12 in high. Its flattened spine give it a paper-like appearance. Slow grower, can propagate from cut stems, blooms range from white, yellow to red. Water during bloom period spring through fall when soil dries out, rest of year keep dry. Full sun and well-drained soil. Cold tolerant but needs warm days for good growth. It is a conversation starter.





Luminaire HOA's "**Desert Island**" Araby garden was designed by Sherry Alderman of Earth Concepts dating from a landscape design in 2013 and construction start in 2015. We call this design concept a "Desert Island" - a free form landscape style of water efficient plants interspersed with lush planting islands with a tropical feel. This garden is meant to break the mold of standard HOA design concepts, creating a casual, flowing and cohesive design both with softscape and hardscape materials. Now that the plant material has been established it can be maintained with a minimum of water.

1. **Madagascar False Ocotillo**, *Alluaudia* or **African Ocotillo** is a dramatic deciduous plant native to Madagascar to 15ft. It looks very similar to the *Ocotillo* but it is not related. Like the *Ocotillo* the *Alluaudia* has ovate leaves but many more of them along its stem and has white flowers. Flowers from the tip of the branches. It is both cold and drought tolerant but frost tender, requires well-drained porous soil. Bright light to full sun.
2. **Mediterranean Dwarf Palm**, *Chamaerops humilis* is the only palm native to Europe and the northernmost native palm in the world. It is found mostly in the European Mediterranean region to northern Africa and is a clumping palm to 16ft. It is normally dioecious, male and female flowers on separate plants like the holly bush and it pollinated by a weevil. Its fruit is not edible but used as an astringent. It thrives in a temperate climate but does well in our desert and as a house plant. Frost, cold and drought tolerant, full sun to part sun. Poor to rocky soil. This plant is a beautiful focal plant for beside the pool, the entry or courtyard. It is a threatened species in some parts of its natural habitat.
3. **Peruvian Apple Cactus**, *Cereus repandus* syn *Cereus peruvianus* is a clumping blue-green shrub cactus with deep ribs native to S America to 20ft and 15ft wide. Large white tubular night blooming flowers in summer are followed by red fruit (pitaya) Full sun to part shade and drought tolerant in well-drained soil. Cold hardy to 25°.
4. **Ponytail Palm**, *Beaucarnea recurvata* is a plant of the *Asparagaceae* family native to Mexico and not closely related to the palm, to 15ft. The caudex at its base is used for storing water. A houseplant for many, it does well in our full sun and is drought tolerant, full sun to part shade. Cold tolerant to 25°. Slow grower. Look for larger and older Ponytail Palms at Colony 29.
5. **Smooth Agave**, *Agave desmetiana* is a toothless cultivar probably from Mexico. A fast-growing clumping vase-shaped rosette to 3ft wide that readily offsets with sharp spines on leaf tips. Drought tolerant and full sun. As with all agaves once it blooms the mother plant dies. Though to be resistant to agave snout-nosed weevil.
6. **Sisal**, *Agave sisalana* is the agave from which sisal is harvested and is thought to be from Chiapas, Mexico. It is a sterile hybrid and propagated by offsets and bulbils. Fast grower to 6ft tall and wide, not armed with thorns but has a terminal spine. Frost tolerant to 25°, full sun with lifespan of 7-10 years.
7. **Old Man of the Andes**, *Oreocereus celsianus* is a columnar cactus with dense hair and long spines from the Andes up to 10ft. Red flowers near the top of the cactus open during the day. Drought and cold tolerant, full sun well-drained soil.
8. **Hanging Chain Cholla** or **Jumping Cholla**, *Cylindropuntia fulgida* is a treelike branching cactus native to the Southwest and Mexico to 12ft. Older branches lose their spines and reveal a scaly brown bark. White and pink flowers mid-summer on branch tips. The dangling twisted branches give this *Cholla* its name. The spines are painful to the touch and this plant will 'jump' to anything that brushes against it or walks by the fallen stems, the cactus propagates in this manner by wildlife giving young plants (from fallen stems) a 'ride' to a their new home. Bighorn sheep use it as a food and water source during drought. Little water, full sun and cold tolerant.



9. **Desert Marigold**, *Baileya multiradiata* is a member of the *aster* family and characterized by individual florets arranged densely and looks like a single flower. Bright yellow flowers with green leaves with silver-white hairs that are low on the thick stems. Drought tolerant, full sun.
10. **Parry's Agave** or **Mescal Agave** or **Artichoke Agave**, *Agave parryi var. truncata* is moderate compact grower native to Mexico to 4ft. Rosettes have brown margins offset and create clumps. Full sun and drought tolerant with well-drained soil. Dramatic specimen plant.
11. **Mexican Grass Tree**, *Dasyllirion longissimum* is an excellent specimen plant with a grasslike appearance in the *Nolina* family without teeth, to 6ft. Old foliage may be removed to show a single trunk and the leaves appear to be floating above the trunk. White flowers in summer on long stalk. Moderate grower with full sun. Low water when established, cold tolerant to 15°.
12. **Bismark Palm**, *Bismarckia nobilis* is silver-blue upright palm native to Madagascar. Certainly of noble form this feature plant is a stunning addition to the garden, slow-grower, variety of well-drained soil conditions, frost and cold tolerant, not drought tolerant, full sun. This palm needs lots of space for its wide crown.
13. **Candelabra Tree** or **Naboom**, *Euphorbia ingens* is a fast-growing succulent tree from South Africa and Swaziland up to 50ft. This plant is more poisonous than other euphorbias. Full Sun and moderate water. Available in variegated and non-variegated.
14. **Beaked Yucca**, *Yucca rostrata* is a slow-growing treelike yucca native to the Southwest U.S. and Mexico to 15ft. It is usually single trunked but may branch out. White flowers on long stalks bloom in spring. Drought and frost tolerant in well-drained soil. Full Sun.
15. **Desert Spoon** or **Sotol**, *Dasyllirion wheeleri* is a native of the Southwest and Mexico and well adapted to our desert to 6ft. Low maintenance, low water and slow grower. Will form a trunk with age and may have multiple heads. Tan flowers in summer. Very sharp and toothy leaf margins to enjoy from a distance. Full sun (tolerates part shade) with well-drained soil, cold hardy to 0°.



# Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley

## 12th Annual Desert Garden Tour

Sunday, March 26, 2017

12:00 until 4:00 p.m.

[deserthorticulturalsociety.org](http://deserthorticulturalsociety.org)

**“Johnston Ohana Garden”** dates from 1996 and has grown, as we acquired more properties on the site, to its current 6.5 acres that climbs 80 ft above the street level. Over the years we created hardscaping to integrate the properties into one another, create outdoor rooms, follies and play areas. The gardens make the property whole by utilizing the mountain vistas, creating surprises of plantings as you wind around the garden paths, creating spaces for relaxation and contemplation, creating a haven for local wildlife, highlighting the architecture of the buildings and are ever-changing throughout the seasons and year-to-year.

As the owner says “the gardens represent the growth of our family and everyday experiences” and have inspired me to tend them. “There are 22 themed gardens onsite and they have been inspired by the people we have met, places we have visited, as well as events of everyday life experiences. These gardens are the soul of our property.”

This garden is maintained by one person seven days a week with supplemental crews for pruning and weeding. The tree canopy reduces water usage and we monitor water use onsite.

*Please take time to wander this special garden, look up to take in the views, listen to the birds and look around to take in the pleasant surprises around the bends in the garden.*

Numbers 1-12 are close to the entrance gate

1. **Damianita**, *Chrysactinia mexicana* is a low-growing evergreen mounding shrub covered in sulphur yellow flowers from Spring to Fall, to 2-3 ft wide and tall. Woody stems with dark green narrow leaves. Part of the Aster family this plant is native to Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. Cold and drought tolerant, well-drained soil and full sun.
2. **Palo Blanco**, *Acacia willardiana* is a slow-growing deciduous small accent tree native to Sonora, Mexico to 20ft. Upright form with papery silver bark, requires little pruning. Tassel-shaped flowers bloom in spring.
3. **Artemisia** is part a large family (also called mugworts or wormwood) of plants belonging to the aster family grown mostly for its gray foliage in the garden, takes to shaping, gets woody with age, fragrant leaves, beautiful growing along a wall, needs well-drained soil, full sun, cold tolerant. It's gray leaves help reflect our desert sun. *Artemisia absinthium* is used in making absinthe. Artemisias may also be used a a food plant for butterfly larvae.
4. **Slipper Plant**, *Pedilanthus macrocarpus*, or Lady's Slipper is a member of the Euphorbia family native to Baja to 5ft with mostly leafless branches and orange-red birdlike flowers Summer through Fall. Drought tolerant when established, can be frost tender, well-drained soil. Full sun to part shade, does best in our desert with some shade. Dramatic addition the garden does well in beds and containers. Attracts hummingbirds.
5. **Wooly Torch Cactus**, *Cleistocactus strausii* syn *Cephalocereus palmeri* is a columnar cactus native to Mexico to 20ft with distinctive white furry appearance and blueish stem.
6. **Coral Aloe**, *Aloe striata* is a fleshy spineless aloe, with coral colored leaf margins, native to S Africa that needs protection from the hot reflected heat and well-drained soil to 3ft. Needs afternoon shade. Beautiful coral flowers on long stems in winter, a hummingbird favorite. Moderate grower and will not produce a trunk, will grow larger along our coast. Prone to rot if over-watered.



Written and edited by Tracy Merrigan

7. **Blue Glow Agave**, *Agave 'Blue Glow'* is a single rosette slow grower to 2ft tall by 3ft wide. It is a hybrid of *Agave attenuata* and *Agave ocahui*, it seems to get its broad leaves from the *Agave attenuata*. Blue-green leaves with red margins and short red terminal spine. Full sun with low water when established. Cold tolerant.
8. **Cascalote**, *Caesalpinia cacalaco* is a small flowering subtropical patio-sized tree in the pea family, native to Mexico to 10-15ft by 15ft wide. Distinctive foliage and dramatic yellow flowers are the hallmark of this plant. Winter and spring bloomer. Fast grower, full sun, drought and cold tolerant when established.
9. **Verbena**, is a dramatic addition to your garden with its purple blossoms and long bloom period. It is native to the US It has a prostrate spreading form and is low maintenance but takes to pruning or shaping. Drought tolerant, full sun. Works well as a ground cover, cascading in rock gardens or in pots. There are many colors and varieties. There is also a white variety here.
10. **Jerusalem Sage**, *Phlomis fruticosa* is a shrub in the mint family to 4 ft tall with long flowering season Spring to Summer, dramatic yellow whorls with furry leaves, well-drained soil, full sun, drought tolerant, takes to shaping.
11. **Russian Sage**, *Perovskia atriplicifolia* is a crowd pleasing perennial native to Central Asia to 5ft by 4ft wide. Lavender blooms summer through fall on wispy gray-green foliage. Drought, cold and poor soil tolerant, full sun. Will get woody with age, cut back to refresh. Has been used for medicinal uses like dysentery.
12. **Euphorbia mauritanica** is mounding succulent native to Mauritania, to 3ft by 4-5 ft wide, small yellow flowers in Spring, well-drained soil, afternoon shade is good in the desert, full sun elsewhere, fast grower. Euphorbia sap/latex is caustic and can be irritating to the eyes, skin, pulmonary system or toxic if ingested.

Numbers 13-18 are near the Palm Oasis

13. **California Fan Palm**, *Washingtonia filifera* is the only palm native to the SW to 70ft, grows in riparian areas. Its fronds and fruit are used by Native people for food, shelter and tools and by birds, lizards, quail, bighorn sheep and coyotes for food and shelter. Letting the palm keep its "skirt" (not removing the fronds) will allow animals and birds a local habitat to thrive in. Removing the flower stalk makes your palm less messy, but in a protected area away from your pool and drive the birds will love the fruit the palm produces if left to flower.
14. **Madagascar Palm**, *Pachypodium lamerei* is a native to Madagascar to 12ft. Not a palm but a succulent related to the Plumeria. Large white fragrant blooms with narrow leaves at top of trunks. Very frost intolerant, will drop leaves below 40 degrees. Full sun to part shade. Dramatic feature plant.
15. **Creosote Bush**, *Creosote Larrea tridentata*, is a slow-growing evergreen shrub from 3-10ft tall native to the Southwest deserts. Long season of yellow flowers followed by small white fuzzy seed pods. Mature plants are extremely drought tolerant, young ones need adequate watering to establish, full sun and well-drained soil. Aggressively competes for water from nearby plants, seen as solitary plants in the desert. In older plants the crown will split and form a new colony as the original plant dies. "King Clone" creosote ring in the Mojave Desert is 11,700 years old (Creosote Rings Preserve).
16. **Brittlebrush or Incienso**, *Encelia farinosa*, native to our deserts named for the brittleness of its stems, to 3-5ft tall. New canopy of gray leaves yearly and has wonderful button shaped buds on long stems that hover over plant before opening to bright yellow blooms from March-June. Part of sunflower family. Very drought and cold tolerant, has gray hairy leaves that are common to desert plants. Spanish missionaries burned it as incense.
17. **California Barrel**, *Ferocactus cylindraceus* or **Miner's Compass** is a cylindrical cactus that can become columnar with age to 18 in. and may lean toward the sun, thus point south. It is native to Anza-Borrego and the Mojave and Sonoran deserts. Covered in long spines, straight and red when new and grey and curved as they age, this cactus has bright yellow flowers that face the sun. It is threatened by collecting. Full sun and well-drained soil, drought tolerant when established.
18. **Fish Hook Barrel Cactus**, *Ferocactus wislizenii* is native to the Sonoran and Chihuahua deserts and has red to gray hooked spines with orange-yellow flowers to 1-2ft wide to 6ft tall. Can be very long lived to 130 years. Well-drained rocky or sandy soil, full sun, frost tolerant, water thoroughly away from body of plant or sunlight will scar plant. Ribs deepen with less moisture in plant. Flowers on top new growth.



Written and edited by Tracy Merrigan

19. **Mexican Fence Post Cactus**, *Pachycereus marginatus* is native to Mexico to 20ft tall. Drought tolerant when established, frost sensitive. White flowers, red fruit, sandy well-drained soil. Used as a living fence.

Number 19 is in front of the blue house

20. **Whisker** or **Totem** or **Senita Cactus**, *Pachycereus schottii* sometimes *Lophocereus schottii* is a cactus native to Arizona and Baja California with a branched form from center to 10ft tall and 12ft wide. The name **Senita** in the Spanish vernacular means Little Old Woman. Groups of spines at the top look like fur. Pink or white flowers with red edible fruit. Full sun, cold tolerant to 17 degrees, sandy or loamy well drained soil. See it flourish in Organ Pipe National Monument.

Numbers 20-28 start from the historic flume up winding path to the top of the drive

21. **Orange Stalked Bulbine**, *Bulbine frutescens* 'Orange' is succulent that is fast spreading by rhizome, bright green leaves with long-lived orange-yellow flowers Spring into Summer, full sun to part shade, drought tolerant when established, dead head to encourage continuous bloom, cold tolerant.
22. **Pink Powder Puff**, *Calliandra emarginata* is an evergreen shrub, native to Central America, to 7ft. Blooms throughout year, heaviest in spring, needs regular watering. Blooms in bright shade, takes well to pruning. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.
23. **African Daisy**, *Osteospermum x hybrida* is a tender perennial native of South Africa and a colorful and happy addition to the desert garden and will spread to 3ft. Wide variety in flower color with green or glaucous leaves (the glaucous variety is more heat resistant in our desert), blooms Spring and Fall, may stop blooming in Summer heat. Acidic soil with moderate water.
24. **Climbing Aloe**, *Aloe ciliaris* is an emerald green aloe with small white toothed margins native to South Africa. This also tends to scramble upward and offsets profusely. Orange flowers late winter to spring, popular with hummingbirds. Well-drained soil, protect from frost, bright light.
25. **Queen Victoria Agave**, *Agave victoriae-reginae*, slow-growing non-offsetting tightly-shaped rosette with attractive variegated leaves to 1-1.5 ft wide. Cold, heat and drought tolerant, well-drained soil, shade or full sun.
26. **Moroccan Mound**, *Euphorbia resinifera* is a 4-sided mounding succulent native to Morocco and the Atlas Mountains, to 2ft by 4-5 ft wide, small yellow flowers in spring, spines are along margins and tips, well-drained soil with afternoon shade in the desert, full sun elsewhere, frost tolerant. Euphorbia sap/latex is caustic and can be irritating to the eyes, skin, pulmonary system or toxic if ingested.
27. **Terrestrial Bromeliad**, *Bromeliaceae* is a large family of plants native to the tropics. They vary from epiphytes like **Spanish Moss**, *Tillandsia usneoides* to terrestrial species including the one shown here, **Dyckias** mostly native to Brazil, the pineapple and the **Puya** native to the Andes. The terrestrial bromeliads need loose soil with organic material to hold water but cactus mix is fine for **Dyckias**. Full sun to part shade. Striking and dramatic accent plants.
28. **Giant Agave**, *Agave salmiana* 'Green Giant' is dark grey leaved agave that grows to a massive size of 6 x 6 ft. This cultivar originates from Mexico where *Agave salmiana* is used for wine-making, agave "maguey de pulque". Both drought and cold tolerant, this agave offsets and is a dramatic specimen plant. Well-drained soil.
29. **Chaste Tree**, *Vitex agnus-castus* is deciduous shrub to small tree to 10-15ft tall and wide and is native to the Mediterranean. Full sun with well-drained soil, moderate water. Beautiful sprays of blue or white flowers in Spring with seed pods to follow. Popular with wildlife and will sow volunteers. Takes to pruning, see it here pruned as a tree.
30. **Hedgehog Cactus**, *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* or **Mojave Mound** or **Claret Cup** is a clumping cactus to 12 x 48in. It is native to California from the low to high deserts with orange to red blooms in the spring. Heat, cold and drought tolerant in well-drained soil, full sun to part shade. Pollinated by hummingbirds.



Written and edited by Tracy Merrigan