

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

CAMPUS ARBORETUM



Announcing the naming of the Matthew B. Johnson Florilegium

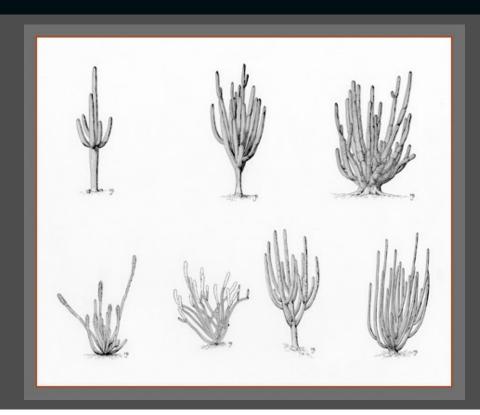
Matthew B. Johnson is a UA alumni with a B.S in Agriculture and M.S in Horticulture. He has served as the Program Manager and Curator for the Desert Legume Program for the past 33 years!

Throughout his career he has extensively studied xerophytes (*plant species adapted to survive with minimal water*) from around the world. Matt is author of over 90 published articles relating to botany and horticulture of plants from arid regions. His focus is trees, cacti, and succulents, from Sonora, Mexico and Southern Arizona.

As a botanist and horticulturist, he has worked with a number of organizations including the UA college of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Tohono Chul Park, and served on the Board of Directors of the

Wallace Desert Gardens (2007-2019). He is also a member of the Arizona Native Plant Society, Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, and the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club.

Read more about Matthew



In addition to his work as a manager, curator, and author; Matt is a plant photographer and botanical illustrator.

Click here to see his illustrations



To commemorate the important native species in the Joseph Wood Krutch Garden, the Arboretum commissioned a florilegium – pronouced "flawr-uh-leejee-em" – which is a collection of scientific illustrations used as a visually rich historic record.

Matt was continuously involved in the florilegium project from the initial mapping of the Joseph Wood Krutch garden in 2014, to his role as primary botanical consultant to the artists, and as a member of the florilegium jury through to the project completion in 2023! His astonishing knowledge of botany, is nearly matched by his generosity and grace. The Arboretum is truly thankful for his support with this and so many other important projects.

With gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to botanical research, and unfailing generosity to the University that made this collection possible: Announcing the dedication of the Matthew B. Johnson Florilegium of the Joseph Wood Krutch Garden.

(organ pipe cactus) by Pauline Savage. Acrylic on paper.





AcknowledgementsThanks to the generosity of

Keith and Brenda Taylor,

funds to cover all costs associated with artists' commissions, framing, matting and initial exhibitions were provided. At their request, the collection has been named to honor our mutual friend and a primary project contributor, Matthew B. Johnson.



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