



*Mariosousa willardiana*, the Palo Blanco tree was one of many arid-adapted species Warren Jones tried and tested on the UA Campus grounds, that was then introduced as a new introduction in the nursery trade as a sustainable option to beautify and shade city lots while conserving water and other resources.

## Inspiring Landscapes

The University of Arizona campus landscapes have modeled innovations in desert horticulture from the beginning. Faculty, like Warren Jones, were world renowned and locally beloved for developing and promoting responsible landscape practices for desert cities. He and others tested and introduced durable new species and showcased the native diversity of the Sonoran Desert to create diverse and inspiring xeriscapes. While some associate "xeriscapes" with sparsely planted cactus gardens dominated by gravel mulch, the term xeriscape actually defines a process for building landscapes with conscious consideration and respect for the environment. Xeriscape designs follow principles that lead to a diverse array of efficient and sustainable landscapes that need very little and offer much! With creativity, desert landscapes can be incredibly diverse, strategically integrating zones of lush, flowery, colorful, shady, prickly, architectural, open or serene planting areas that grow sustainably in balance with the site. Learn more about our latest innovative garden at the USS Arizona Memorial on the Mall. Designed by Planning Design and Construction, to be built by UA Grounds Services and members of the campus and community, the garden will be sustainable and inspiring!



**An Exceptional Volunteer**



**Featured Plant of the Month**

guides, like Hank Verbais, we are fulfilling our mission to educate the community about the value of urban trees. Hank is the coordinator of the tour program - scheduling tours, promoting and publicizing them, responding to special requests, recruiting, organizing and training other docents, and serving as a member of the Campus Arboretum Advisory Board. Amazingly, he also never skips a chance to "get in the trenches" himself and masterfully lead tours too! Hank is a proud UA Alumni, retired air force mechanic, a Master Gardener, a Master Naturalist, a docent for Tohono Chul Botanical Garden, and a devoted father, husband, and friend. We are SO fortunate to have his knowledge, skill and leadership in support of our program. **Join him for a tour to say "Thanks Hank!"**

## Mariosousa willardiana - Palo Blanco

by Scott Calhoun, Owner, Zona Gardens.

Although the Palo Blanco (Mariosousa willardiana formerly Acacia willardiana) is a wisp of a tree---it is one of my favorite species for small desert gardens. Drought and heat-tolerant in the extreme, its svelte and graceful form sets it apart from other desert trees. The trunk is its prime attraction: white exfoliating bark that peels off in scrolls large enough to write a short letter on. Small strips of bark are also used by hummingbirds as nesting material.

[. Learn More...](#)

## CAMPUS ARBORETUM TREE TOURS

Experiencing the campus landscape will change the way you think about urban deserts. Visit campus to explore on your own or participate in a guided tour.

Click here to view the  
Fall 2019 [Schedule of Tours](#)  
To view our  
[mobile tours, click here.](#)



## UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CAMPUS ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 210036 Tucson, AZ 85721-0036

PHONE: (520) 621-1582

E-MAIL: [infoarboretum@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:infoarboretum@ag.arizona.edu)

WEBSITE: <http://arboretum.arizona.edu>

