

DWL Tour 2018 Essay by Jennifer Finch

I look forward to the Desert Wise Landscape Tour every year, and every year it just keeps getting better!

I started the tour in 29 Palms at the Tower Homestead. This place really takes you to simpler times. Very water wise, with most of the interest in the property coming from stones and antiques. As I headed to a few homes on Oasis Ave, I loved seeing how folks had trimmed creosotes (my favorite) to look like trees and made beautiful curved sidewalks in earthtones that inspired me to walk all over the property and take in the views. It's amazing how mixing a little yard art with desert plants and rocks makes for plenty of interest.

It's always great to sit under the shade of a mature mesquite or Palo Verde. I could stay all day. Penstemons stole the show this year. It's amazing how they keep reappearing year after year with a little love and attention. Heading to Landers and seeing the permaculture property was very inspiring and I can't wait to see the property in the coming years to see how much the trees will grow with the land graded to direct the water to the trees. The owner observed the weather and sun for a full year before deciding plant placement. I loved the place with the rocks that were painted with glitter.

I am so glad that so many folks are appreciating this magnificent desert and this tour makes them realize that they can make their own place beautiful and welcoming being desert wise. It's great how the hosts and docents share their knowledge. I can't wait till next year.