

## **DWL Tour 2018 Essay by Tracie Schatz**

My mind and creative juices are overflowing like a rushing river, full of possibilities for life in my desert garden. I learned to appreciate even more, just how perfect our desert is, as it is.

Looking around my land with new eyes this morning I see spectacular specimens of existing perfect plants. Now I know how to highlight their beauty with a path, rock formation, piece of art, glass, wood or rusty metal. A few special touches near my front door or in the peaceful area where I sit to watch the sunrise is all that's needed to fill my need as a "gardener".

Gardener, I've always thought of myself as one, and still do. It just has a new definition!

No longer a "battle of wills," mine, the weather, the pesky insects. Now, it will be a peaceful co-existence as I learn to be a caretaker, watching over "my little piece of land," protecting my perfectly suited plants that live in harmony with all the micro communities of insects, animals and elements.

The ancients whisper on the wind: protect your land, live in balance with Mother Earth. It's an honor and joy to be a part of this desert community. It's evident we all came here for similar reasons. We are all connected just like the ancient creosote among us.

The willingness of all who shared their vision, hard work and passions with us is truly a gift.

Thank you.