Plants identified along the Nature Trail of SKY'S THE LIMIT Observatory and Nature Center

- 1. Creosote Bush
- 2. Dead Cactus
- 3. Teddy Bear Cholla
- 4. Smoke Tree
- 5. Mojave Yucca
- 6. Catclaw
- 7. Desert Senna
- 8. Palo Verde
- 9. Ocotillo
- 10. Foxtail Cactus
- 11.Brittlebush
- 12. Paperbag Bush
- 13. Spiny Menodora
- 14.Old Man Cactus
- 15. Pencil Cholla
- 16. Pancake Cactus
- 17.Jojoba
- 18.Bladderpod
- 19. White Ratany
- 20. Peach Thorn
- 21. Beavertail Cactus
- 22. Calico Cactus
- 23. Fishhook Cactus
- 24. Golden Cholla
- 25. Barrel Cactus
- 26.Burrobush
- 27. Cottontop Cactus
- 28. Engelmann Prickly Pear
- 29. Turpentine Broom
- 30. Desert Tea
- 31.Desert Mallow
- 32. Parish's Goldeneye
- 33. Cheesebush





PENCIL CHOLLA

Cylindropuntia (Opuntia) ramosissima
by Jerry McPheeters



MOJAVE YUCCA Yucca schidigera by Darlene Morris

SKY'S THE LIMIT

**WELCOME** 

**CENTER** 

NORTH



CREOSOTE BUSH

Larrea tridentata

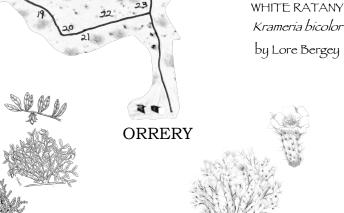
by Katholeen Perry

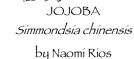


CATCLAW Senegalia greggii by Shirley James



BARREL CACTUS
Ferocactus cylindraceus
by Gabrielle von Kahrs









## An Alluvial Fan Plant Community

SKY'S THE LIMIT is located on an alluvial fan at an elevation of 2800 feet, standing on soil of coarse decomposed granite mixed with finer soils – material washed down from the mountains to the sandy washes, the alluvial fan supports a community of plants adapted to harsh desert conditions. These plants are able to survive in an environment of little rainfall, intense sunlight, temperature extremes, low humidity, and drying winds.

The plants around you are part of the creosote bush scrub plant community. The Creosote Bush is the dominant shrub here. It is widespread throughout the Mojave and Colorado Deserts at elevations below 3500 feet. Generally, companion shrubs include Burrobush and Krameria. In some areas these 3 make up the majority. But here there is a broad variety of shrubs, vines, and grasses.

Perennial shrubs include the Mojave Yucca, Jojoba, Catclaw, Desert Senna, Paperbag Bush, Cheesebush, Spiny Menodora, and Bladderpod.

Cacti include the Golden Cholla, Pencil Cholla, Pancake Cactus, Barrel, Foxtail, Calico, and Fishhook. A nice specimen of the rare Dead Cactus (*Grusonia*) grows at the beginning of the nature trail.

Text: Darrell Shade. Front panel illustration: *Teddy-Bear Cholla*, original watercolor by Pat Flynn-Zawojski especially for SKY'S THE LIMIT *Living Gift Program*.

Artists of the Morongo Basin generously donated their original artwork, reproduced here, to support a Native Plant Education Program at SKY'S THE LIMIT.