

## Hermitage Program Report CCA General Meeting September 14, 2024

### *Sojourner Reflection:*

*Written by a sojourner during her month long sojourn at the Carvan.*

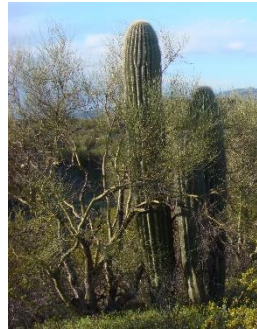
### **I asked the old saguaro, "Teach me about old age," and the old saguaro said:**

*"You're never too old to offer hospitality, allowing strangers into your heart. They may build a nest there, but when they're gone others will knock at your door, happy to occupy the already-made nest they find there.*

*Learn to love your scars and allow them to be life-giving for others – and theirs will be so for you.*

*And accept to be dependent on others for certain things. time until you can handle life again on your own, but it's a may come – and may even surprise you with flowers.*

*And if you can, do leave a few seeds laying around, even to get lost. I came from a seed the size of an ink drop, You never know."*



*It may only be for a good school for what*

*if they're tiny and likely hundreds of years ago.*

### **Upcoming Sojourners:**

It's beginning to look like a busy sojourner season. The month of October is about full, utilizing both hermitages, with reservations for December, and the Proctor Academy students returning in January. We will host a community breakfast for them on their last day as we did before.

### **Sabbatical Gatherings:**

These gatherings are a time to walk the land as a community of people to be present to each other and the diversity of life that surrounds us. We will hold these twice during the sojourning season.

The upcoming gathering will be held **Saturday, October 12, from 10:00 – noon**. We will walk the San Pedro River with our community of goats. Please contact Susan for more information or directions.

### **Sojourning News:**

We are now publishing this email newsletter about Hermitage Program events 3 times a year. The September issue highlighted our upcoming workshops, the October Sabbatical Gathering, along with photographs of the changing seasons.

### **Workshops:**

We hosted 6 people for the overnight "herping" workshop with our own Cascabel herpetologist, Lexi Bordeaux. They encountered a plethora of night creatures including 3 distinct species of snakes. A fun and successful adventure for all!

***New Co-chair:***

Katie Talbott will be stepping down as co-chair of the program and we welcome Lynn Thorsell who will assume the role. Lynn has been a sojourner and this year, has accompanied sojourners this past year, and brings wonderful gifts of insight, organization, and compassionate support to the role.

***Susan's Transition:***

"I have been honored to serve as leader of the Hermitage Program after Daniel Baker stepped down in 2017, and it has been inspiring to serve as the Accompaniment person to those desiring to sojourn in this special land we steward for that purpose. However, it is time that I step down after this program season (ending May 2025). The Hermitage Committee is actively inviting anyone who has an interest in being part of a team who will lead and accompany sojourners to submit an "expression of interest" on the following link.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yw\\_fu0iJvGOaNVEjyQ67hRnzAcKw51if-skW47oRw08/edit?usp=drivesdk](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yw_fu0iJvGOaNVEjyQ67hRnzAcKw51if-skW47oRw08/edit?usp=drivesdk)

***Interested in participating with us on the Hermitage Committee? Please contact Susan Tollefson. All are welcome!***