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**THE SPIRIT OF THE SAGUARO**  
**Photography Exhibit Celebrates the Beauty of the Saguaro**

The Desert Botanical Garden presents ***The Spirit of the Saguaro***, an exhibition of photographs from Arizona photographer **Holly Metz**. The exhibition will take place in the Garden's **Ottosen Gallery, September 5 - October 19, 2008**. Ottosen Gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. ***The Spirit of the Saguaro*** celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of this ancient desert plant. Twenty large black and white images will be displayed,

"The photographs focus on the radiant presence and ancient wisdom of the saguaros near our home. Standing silently with them in the desert is life-sustaining. I listen to them creak in the breeze, the sound of wind in their spines like water. I touch and smell their rain soaked skin. Though they have witnessed and suffered countless indignities, they continue to grow in balance and strength, flower and bear fruit," says Metz.

Photographer Holly Metz has been creating black and white images for nearly 15 years. Originally from West Virginia, Metz now lives with her family on the Gila River Indian Community. She holds a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from University of Arizona, Tucson, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from West Virginia University. Visit [www.hollymetz.com](http://www.hollymetz.com) for more information on ***The Spirit of the Saguaro*** project.

In addition to the exhibition, Metz will lead a family workshop entitled, ***The Spirit of the Saguaro: A Mindful Photography Experience for Youth with Artist Holly Metz***, on Sunday, September 28, from 10

a.m. – noon. This workshop is intended for children ages 7 and up with an accompanying adult. The workshop is designed to enlighten our consciousness using cameras and photography, increasing our awareness of the natural world around us – and fostering a deeper connectedness with our desert home. Participants are encouraged to bring a camera to practice these observations and capture images they see with both their eyes and hearts. Holly will share her experiences and philosophies while photographing for this exhibit and describe her artistic process, as well as lead a tour of the gallery pieces, followed by a quiet gathering to practice mindfulness.

A “Phoenix Point of Pride”, the Desert Botanical Garden is one of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is a privately funded, non-profit organization and depends on revenues from admissions and gift shop sales, as well as contributions from individuals and businesses to fund its programs of environmental education, plant conservation and research.

The exhibit is free with admission to the Garden. Admission rates are \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors, \$5.00 for students with ID, \$4.00 for children 3-12 years-of-age; Garden members and children 2 years and younger are admitted free.

The Desert Botanical Garden is located inside Papago Park at 1201 North Galvin Parkway in Phoenix, Arizona. The Garden is open every day, except Thanksgiving, December 25 and July 4, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Ottosen Gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Call (480) 941-1225 or visit [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org) for more information.

**\* Additional digital images available upon request.**

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