

The Hualapai Ethnobotany Youth Project

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Abstract: Many people believe the desert is a harsh forsaken place, but for the Hualapai Tribal people of Northern AZ it is home; a place where every plant has a name, a purpose, and a story. The Hualapai Ethnobotany Youth Project is celebrating its tenth year of existence. It is an intergenerational program bringing Tribal elders and youth together to share about the plants that sustained the people for millennia.

Keywords: desert foodways, ethnobotany, Hualapai, photo essay

Carrie Calisay Cannon is a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma and also is of Oglala Lakota descent. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, and an M.S. in Resource Management. She began working as a tribal biologist for the Hualapai Tribe of Peach Springs, Arizona in 2005 where she began the creation of an intergenerational ethnobotany program for the Hualapai community. Carrie is currently employed as an ethnobotanist for the Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources. She administers a number of department projects and programs which promote the intergenerational teaching of Hualapai ethnobotanical knowledge. She works towards both preservation as well as revitalization focusing her energy on ensuring tribal ethnobotanical knowledge persists as a living practice and tradition. Carrie can be reached by email at calisay17@hotmail.com.



Frank Mapatis and Phyna Cook harvesting mescal agave within Peach Springs Canyon, a side Canyon within the greater Grand Canyon on the Hualapai Indian Reservation.



Sequoya Wakayuta harvesting the cholla cactus buds within Hualapai ancestral lands.



Sterling Dashee and Tristan Wakayuta proudly holding a tray of the calcium rich cholla cactus buds harvested on the Hualapai Ethnobotany Youth Project Field Trip.