

MARCH

ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

BRITTLEBUSH

INTERPRETIVE RANGER Nikki Bunnell



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BRITTLEBUSH



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RANGER NIKKI BUNNELL**

This month, we're highlighting Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). Here are a few fun and important facts:

1. Brittlebush is a member of the sunflower family, along with other desert plants such as bursage and desert marigold.
2. This hardy, widespread shrub thrives in desert conditions. Its leaves are covered in tiny hairs that give them a soft, silvery appearance while helping reflect sunlight, regulate temperature, and reduce water loss.
3. The stems produce a fragrant, sticky resin. Indigenous peoples traditionally used this resin as incense and glue, and in some cases as a chewing substance.

Source:

- A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Press and University of California Press. 176-7 - <https://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/facts/?animal=Brittlebush>