ew succulent collectors are unfamiliar with the name John Lavranos. His field collections of plants span almost five decades and have yielded an extraordinary number of important new taxa, rediscoveries and new localities for previously known species. His work is set apart from that of most other botanists by his generous and unwavering support of those dedicated to the cultivation, propagation and dissemination of succulent rarities. Conversely, John’s careful documentation of his efforts—by use of photographs, field notes, herbarium specimens and publications—place him in an unusual group of horticulturists or plantsmen.

I first met John some thirty years ago in Santa Barbara, when he expressed to me his interest in the genus *Calochortus*, our native mariposa lilies. As I discovered in the ensuing years, this was a small glimpse into the mind of someone with a keen passion for plant life, succulent and other-