

## Ralph Peters

Ralph Peters is an engineer who is retired from Sandia National Laboratories. There he did computer modeling in a variety of areas including solar power systems, water and contaminant transport at Yucca Mountain, nuclear power for space applications, robotic manipulation and vision, and “artificial intelligence”.

He became interested in local cacti and succulents in the early 1980s and has traveled extensively in the Southwest USA exploring for plants and localities. He has made plant trips to Baja California and South Africa.

Ralph has a passionate interest in growing cacti and succulents from seed and produces much of the seed that he plants. Excess seeds and plants may appear at Mesa Garden, Belen NM and the CSSNM Spring Show & Sale. His collection specializes in plants from the Southwest, particularly Sclerocactus, Pediocactus, and Toumeyia. He has made a number of different Sclerocactus-Toumeyia hybrids which leads him to believe that Toumeyias are just “odd” Sclerocactus. He grows other plants including Lithops, Conophytums, Adeniums, Trichocereus, Dudleyas, Echinocereus...

He also enjoys “computer” related activities which includes setting up a weather station (<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KNMALBUQ335>), building/assembling his own desktop computer, and setting up and maintaining a database of cactus/succulent information. He setup and maintains the CSSNM website at <http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org/>

He is an advocate for Linux which is a free, open-source operating system for personal computers that has virtually no problems with viruses and other malware. He uses LinuxMint on a wide variety of his own computers (see [linuxmint.com](http://linuxmint.com)) Linux runs the web!