MARCH SPEAKER

All about Adeniums
Featuring: Dr. Mark Dimmitt
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March Speaker

All about Adeniums
Featuring: Dr. Mark Dimmitt
When: Sunday, March 28th, 2 pm
Where: Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

Mark Dimmitt is well known to many of our members as one of Arizona's premier botanists. He is co-author with Dave Palzkill and Gene Joseph of the recently published book, Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance.

For more information about Mark, visit this interesting blog about him: http://plantfreak.wordpress.com/2009/02/02/mark-dimmitt-plant-freak-extraordinaire-part-i/

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
Plant-of-the-Month Selection - a.k.a. Mini Show
Succulents: Tylecodon, Gasteria
Cacti: Gymnocalycium, Astrophytum

Please bring your favorite plants in the genera listed above. In fact, if you have any plant that is looking especially fantastic right now and would like to show it off then bring it in!

On the Cover

Flower of Euphorbia antisyphilitica (Candelilla). This euphorbia is native to parts of the Chihuahua desert of west Texas and down into Mexico. This is a great xeriscape plant that is well adapted to the extremes of our valley weather. I have had one plant growing in my garden for almost 10 years. It appears healthy but is very slow growing plant, especially since it survives largely off our unpredictable rains.

Photo © Laurence Garvie
What an amazing transformation the desert has undergone this winter, from crispy brown to vibrant green. The other day I visited some small hills that border the northwestern part of the North Maricopa Mountain Wilderness, only 40 minutes southwest of Phoenix. I have been visiting this site off and on for almost 15 years. This area has largely escaped any significant rain since 2005 and it was sad to see large stands of *Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa* steadily declining. I estimate that at least 50% of these plants have died since 2005. In contrast, *C. bigelovii* and *fulgida* appear far more resistant to the extended drought. During the 15 years I have seen an humongous increase in off-road vehicle traffic and other deleterious activities in this wilderness. You can imagine my surprise when I found the dirt road into these hills blocked by a sign erected by the Bureau of Land Management stating that this area is closed to off-road vehicles (actually since the end of 2008). Access by foot, horseback, and bicycle is still permitted. In fact, the map attached to the sign showed that large parts of the North Maricopa Mountain wilderness are now off limits to vehicular traffic. And what a difference a year and a half makes to the desert - there is no evidence of recent human activity (at least in this area) and many of the human-inflicted scars show signs of slow healing. Unfortunately, the abundant shotgun wounds to the saguaros will never heal.

This is a beautiful area that is well worth a visit. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to see the verdant desert then I encourage you to do so before the inevitable heat returns.
**PLANT QUESTIONS???

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

**WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

**DOUG DAWSON**
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Specializations include Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs, and Melocactus.

**MIKE GALLAGHER**
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Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and Turbinicarpus.

**STEVE PLATH**
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Specializations include Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Theocactus, General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

**CYNTHIA ROBINSON**
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Specializations include Flora of Madagascar, Growing from Seed, Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, Aloes, Apocynaceae, Burseraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fouquieriaceae, and Succulent Bonsai.

**BOB TORREST**
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Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus, and Opuntia.