Biography of Mark Dimmitt
By Nick Diomede
Photos by Mark Dimmitt

Please join us for a unique event on 1 pm, April 21. The Arizona Master Gardeners will be joining us for a special presentation to be given by Dr. Mark Dimmitt on trichocereus and adenium.

It is an honor to have Dr. Mark Dimmitt, renowned plant breeder, to present at our meeting in April. Dr. Dimmitt is well known for his knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert and will speak to us on the genera trichocereus and adenium. He retired two years ago as the Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, where he oversaw the Museum's education and scientific programs. Joining the museum staff in 1979 as the Curator of Botany, he has conducted extensive research and published numerous articles in desert ecology and horticulture over the past 30 years. He is the creator of the “Desert Museum” hybrid Palo Verde and well known for his hybrids and study of trichocereus and adenium. In 1999, he received
the Friend Award from The Cactus and Succulent Society of America for his outstanding accomplishments with cacti and succulents.

Dr. Dimmitt has spent several decades hybridizing trichocereus cacti, introducing about 50 cultivars such as Arizona Sunset, Cherry Red, Oh Wow!, Hallucination, Apricot Glow and many more. This species has given us a fabulous display of both day and night-blooming cacti.

Plants of the genus adenium are one of the world’s most recent ornamental plants to be domesticated and is rapidly evolving. These plants make superb collector’s specimens. Much of the plants’ popularity is connected to Dr. Dimmitt.

Dr. Dimmitt has also co-authored a special adenium book, “Adenium: Structural Elegance, Floral Extravagance” (with Gene Joseph & David Palzkill). This authoritative book, authored by experts on growing and propagating adeniums is full of information on the various species that make up the group, history of its cultivation, cultivars and hybrids, and detailed information on successfully growing and propagating it. Dr. Dimmitt will have copies of his book along with plants for sale at the April meeting.

Few people match the level of botanical knowledge, growing skills and intensity of Dr. Mark Dimmitt. Please be sure to mark your calendar and to attend this important and informative program presentation. Your friends and anyone interested are also welcome to join us.

For more information about adenium breeding, please visit Mark Dimmitt’s website: adenium.tucsoncactus.org

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**Adenium Starfish**

**Trichocereus Purple Daze**
2013 CACSS Officers

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CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger
CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator Nick Diomede
Finances-Accounting Tom Rankin, Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 2013 Wendy Barrett
Library Paul Schueneman, Marty Shahan
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Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions Sue Tyrrel
Newsletter Diana Decker
Nominations for Board Officers, Directors -- Mike Gallagher, Dan Smith, Jackie Vasquez
October Silent Auction Jo Davis
Plant Rescues Open Position
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings- Sue Tyrrel
Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups) --
Gard Roper, Doug Dawson, Joe Miracle
Refreshments Cindy Capek
Show & Sale – 2013 Sue Tyrrel
Website Beth Kirkpatrick, Leo Martin

Telephone numbers, emails, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.

2013 Meeting Schedule

Sunday, June 2 – Dorrance Hall
Presenter: Tom Gatz
Landscaping Tips for the Do-It-Yourself Desert Gardener
Tom will share with us some of the things he has learned over the past 20 years about desert landscaping and adding color in small spaces.

The meeting was rescheduled from May 19 to accommodate our growing membership.

Sunday, June 30, Dorrance Hall
President’s Letter
April 2013
Wayne Whipple

We can only use superlatives in describing our 2013 Show & Sale, one of the best we ever held. I could not have been more pleased. So many members made it happen, and the weather cooperated.

First, I must thank Sue Tyrrel, this year’s Show & Sale Chair. She was tremendous in organizing this year’s event, which took many months to plan. We were all happy for her when she received the most votes (the beans) to win this year’s People’s Choice Award of the Show.

It is hard for me to believe the Herculean accomplishment of Gard Roper, our Show Chair. We had an impressive number of plants this year and about 100 were brought in by Gard. Doug Dawson was instrumental in the impressive number of informative Educational Displays that surrounded the Show area. Thank you, Gard and Doug and to all who showed their plants and prepared the Educations Displays. And to our expert show-judges, Cliff Fielding, Scott McMahon, Woody Minnich, and Julie Plath, one huge thank you.

Steve Martinez was the Sale Chair and selected an impressive array of vendors who offered for sale a wide selection of plants and plant accessories. I know he really enjoys handling the Sales portion, and I again thank him for doing this. What would our Show & Sale be like if we didn’t have our volunteers? We owe a very hearty thanks to Jo Davis and Jackie Vasquez for having the right people at the right place at the right time. Beth Kirkpatrick headed the publicity effort and spread the word of our Show & Sale far and wide and to many other organizations. Thanks, Beth. What do the volunteers and vendors look forward to each year? Of course, it is the social time where the refreshments are located. We knew Rita Gosnell’s minted green tea would be available to quench our thirsts. This year her co-chairs were Faith King and Sue Glenn. To the three of you, I say thanks. The last person to leave the Show & Sale each day was the Treasurer Tom Rankin. He accounted for the daily cash register receipts and then paid the vendors. His work began when others were finished. Many thanks, Tom.

I know I just highlighted the Chairs of the various components of the Show & Sale Committee, but I truly appreciated the more than 50 members who helped to make this year’s event a success. I know you had fun doing it and are looking forward to helping with future Show & Sales. I also thank those who attended because your compliments made it all worthwhile.

A very special thanks is given to the Desert Botanical Garden, our active partner. Not only did the DBG provide us with facilities but strongly supported us with helpful advice and publicity. We are particularly indebted to Amber Hahn and Chelsey Keller, members of the DBG staff, whose assistance was invaluable. On behalf of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, I express our sincere gratitude.

The revenues for this year’s Show & Sale were around $40,000, and we will share the amount with the Desert Botanical Garden after paying for expenses.

Now I am looking forward to another great program as we welcome the Master Gardeners to join us in a program presented to us by Dr. Mark Dimmitt. Dr. Dimmitt has been in our repertoire of speakers since 1986 when he first addressed our Society, dating back further in our history than any other speaker.
Volunteer! Take Pride in Our Club

The article, “Taking pride in our town,” in the Clifton, Arizona newspaper, The Copper Era, on August 22, 2012, page A2, caught the attention of Debra Life, CACSS board member from 2010 to 2012 (and she’s still volunteering). The article was featured in the newspaper’s Clifton Council Corner as written by Mayor John Decker and Vice Mayor Felix Callicotte.

Here’s the section that caught Debra’s eye:

Why Volunteer?

"Many hands make project easier." If everyone could provide a small investment in his or her time or talents, imagine the many benefits that could be realized.

So what can I do? Clifton (or our club) is rich with opportunities. Here are just a few examples:

Look, listen, read, support, inform and be informed, meet, greet, share, beautify, smile, teach, recycle, vote, attend a meeting and participate in a town (or a club) activity.

Some of the benefits:

Emotional reward: Satisfaction and pride come from helping others.

Strength: When a community is doing well as a whole, its individuals are also better off.

Learning: With every new experience or responsibility comes new knowledge.

Tolerance: Cooperate with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicity, ages and education toward a common goal.

Appreciation: Help others or support causes that make a positive impact, revealing all the remarkable things in our own life.

Positive Impact: Identify something you enjoy in the community to fulfill a need.

The result? A wonderful, empowering message is that you, the volunteer, are important enough to have an impact. Volunteers can and do make a difference.

Definition of community: A group of people interacting with others, united, and living in harmony with one another.

Take pride in Clifton!

As the article suggests,

VOLUNTEER! Take pride in the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society.

Debora, Thanks for the article.

(Please note: Mayor Decker is not related to the Central Spine editor.)
John and Diana Crummey and I (from left to right) display our tee shirts from the first ever Aloe Summit 2013 held in Santa Barbara, California, on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, by members of a local Aloe group. On Saturday at Lotusland, we learned about the aloes of Africa, Socotra and Madagascar from such aloe specialists as Kelly Griffin, Karen Zimmerman, and Tim Harvey (to name just a few). We had wonderful meals at Lotusland and St. Francis Ranch in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley outside Santa Barbara. On Sunday we toured six spectacular gardens in the area that heavily emphasizes aloes. The gardens ranged from small to large and were located in the mountains and the valleys around Santa Barbara. It was a very special weekend for all of us, with memories we will always treasure.

Nancy Mumpton

“Sue Hakala’s Exotic Stapelias”

This wonderful article is in the April, 2013 Phoenix Home & Garden, p. 65.

Sue is a long-standing and very involved member of our society and our representative to The Cactus and Succulent Society of America.
Wendy Barrett’s Photos of Open Gardens on Saturday, March 16, at the homes of Sue Hakala, Jo Davis, Joe Miracle and Debora Life

Sue Hakala stands next to a collection of potted plants in her garden.

Beth Kirkpatrick talks with her friend from Michigan, Julie Bernstein, at Joe Miracle’s house.
Members enjoy talking with each other after the luncheon in Debora Life’s backyard.

Joe Miracle and Lois Ripley on Joe’s back porch.
Arts & Flowers

The Phoenix Art Museum hosts an annual event called Arts & Flowers where floral designers are invited to choose a piece of artwork and interpret it with a floral display. Boyce Thompson Arboretum participated for the first time last year. This year we chose a sculpture in the Asian section called the Scholar's Rock and used Living Stones (Lithops), Split Rocks (Pleiospilos) and Aeonium as our "flowers." The base structure was made out of chicken wire and papier-mâché into which we glued the plants. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for both best creative and best interpretive displays. We did not win any of those but Boyce Thompson did win the "People's Choice" award. There were times when we had small crowds around our piece as our Director of Education described the piece, our interpretation and how we made it.

Cathy Babcock
PLANT QUESTIONS??? WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list. Call or e-mail Diana Decker, Central Spine editor. Find contact information on p. 2.

For now, the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

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

DEAN PATRICK
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Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

STEVE PLATH
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