Tom Gatz 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. Tom took this photo of his yard.
Creating a great landscape with Tom Gatz

If you are one of the people who think of the term "desert garden" as an oxymoron, it's time to reconsider and push the images of barren rock and cacti out of your head. Beautiful gardens can and do exist in the desert, and many desert gardens are incredibly vibrant and full of plant life.

The keys to a successful desert landscape are knowledge and planning. In order to have a lively, functional garden that also has low water and maintenance requirements, you will need to make educated plant and hardscape choices.

For gardeners in our Sonoran Desert, landscaping can be a challenge; many plants require more water than the area gets in an average growing season, and watering those plants costs money and time. Fortunately, landscaping for our environment is relatively simple once you have the right plants, irrigation control and a plan for how to implement your design. Desert landscaping allows you to utilize water and plants in a way that contributes to your garden without wasting water in our arid environment.

Tom Gatz will share with us some of the things he has learned about desert landscaping and adding color in small spaces, through years of landscaping lectures and classes taken at the Desert Botanical Garden and workshops offered by Master Gardeners and the City of Phoenix.

Tom is a retired wildlife biologist and an avid gardener. He volunteers as a horticultural aide and as a docent in the education department at the Desert Botanical Garden where he is certified as a desert landscaper. He is an active member of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and the Phoenix Bonsai Society. He writes a monthly article for the DBG volunteer newsletter on various aspects of landscaping and desert gardens, with emphasis on cactus, succulents, birds and bonsai, as well as articles for the Central Spine. Tom’s little garden has been featured in Phoenix Home and Garden, The Sonoran Quarterly magazine published by the Desert Botanical Garden and The Humane Society’s online magazine, All Animals and Modern Phoenix: The Neighborhood Network.

Some of the tips he will illustrate and on which he will elaborate in his presentation are summarized online at www.modernphoenix.net/gatztips.htm

CACSS 2013 Show & Sale

Members arrange plants for the show. See more photos on page 7.
2013 CACSS Officers

President: Wayne Whipple
          480-460-3623
          w7676@msn.com

Vice-President: Gard Roper
               602-996-9745

Secretary: Lois Schneberger
          480-946-8373
          lschneberger@cox.net

Treasurer: Tom Rankin
          602-904-2734
          tomrankin@cox.net

Board of Directors

Serving through December, 2013

Cindy Capek 623-979-9389
ronluccap@aol.com

Sue Tyrrel 480-797-952
styrrel@cox.net

Joseph Miracle 480-345-6644
demiracle@cox.net

Nancy Mumpton 480-649-1558
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com

Joe Barnes 480-883-1651
barnesinaz@gmail.com

Serving through December 2014

Wendy Barrett 602-971-5345
wbarrett@cox.net

Jo Davis 480-839-3792

Doug Dawson 480-893-1207
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Beth Kirkpatrick 480-275-4833
2kirks@cox.net

Mike Gallagher 602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net

Steve Martinez 602-688-4339
altrigo2@cox.net

Dan Smith 480-981-9648
smithdans@cox.net

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
Membership Beth Kirkpatrick
Members-Keeping-In-Touch Jo Davis
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

June Meeting: Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m.
Dorrance Hall
Presenter: Bob Webb
Introduction to Selecting and Growing Euphorbias.

Owner of Arid Lands Nursery, Bob is a leading
plant researcher and has done much fieldwork in
Africa. He will have many examples of this
gigantic and complex genus.
Many will be for sale.
PRESIDENT’S LETTER
May 2013
Wayne Whipple

Wasn’t our April 21st meeting one of the best ever? I think the 200 members and master gardeners who attended the meeting would agree. In fact, the joint meeting was so enjoyable that we should consider making it an annual joint meeting. Gard Roper and Mary Ann Garewal (Mary Ann is a Master Gardener as well as a member of CACSS) worked on this event for nearly a year, and we are grateful to them for seeing it through. Doug Dawson was a tremendous help on the day of the event, helping to make sure our facilities were as accommodating as possible.

Mark Dimmitt, our speaker for the joint meeting, was excellent and lectured on two topics. The first session was on the popular trichocereus hybrids. He was a pioneer in developing many new ones in the 1970s and 1980s, and those hybrids are still among collectors’ favorites. His second session covered his current passion -- adeniums. Mark has been making presentations to our group since 1986, and according to our historical records, he is one of our Society’s earliest speakers.

The feedback from those who visited the Wallace Gardens on May 11 was very positive. Many thanks to Lee Brownson for organizing the outing.

Maybe it is just “an Arizona thing,” but one weakness in our Society, unfortunately, is that between 40 to 50 percent of those who register to volunteer do not attend. This has also happened in the last couple of years. I think we all know how frustrating it is for the event organizers. Please do not register to volunteer for an event until you are sure you can attend. If you cannot attend an event after signing up, please contact the organizer rather than just not showing up.

I am sure we are all looking forward to Tom Gatz’s presentation on June 2. Tom has been a major contributor to our Society’s success for many years. I have several of his plants he donated to the various silent auctions. At this year’s Show & Sale, he displayed many interesting bonsai, one of his many specialties.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held at noon, June 2, in the Farrington Conference Room, before the 2 p.m. general meeting in Dorrance Hall. All CACSS members are cordially invited to attend the board meeting. If there is something you would like the Board to consider, let me know in advance so I can add it to the agenda.

Please bring boxes with you to the meetings so you can carry your new plants home more easily.

Please wear Your Name Tag at Monthly Meetings

Board Member Jo Davis asks members to wear their name tags at monthly meetings and other club events. Members then can more easily spot guests and talk with them about the guest’s interests and CACSS. If you need a lanyard to hang the name tag around your neck, see Jo at the meetings.
WATERING CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS DURING THE SUMMER — PROCEED WITH CAUTION
by Tom Gatz

(modified and reprinted from The Gatherings, the newsletter for the volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden)

Believe it or not, some cacti and succulents can and will readily collapse and die if you water them during the heat of the summer, especially when the nights stay hot. For example, if you were seduced into purchasing any of the following attractive rosette succulents in the family Crassulaceae often sold at the big box stores this past winter, read on if you want to see them alive this time next year.

On our club’s website, Dr. Leo Martin advises us to bring Aeonium, Crassula, Dudleya, Echeveria, and Sedum rosettes into the house when it really starts to heat up, with no watering all summer, except for an occasional light spray. Dudleyas can be kept completely dry. Bring them back outside and resume watering when night temperatures dip into the low 70s, probably in late September or early October. I don’t water my aeoniums
all summer and keep them indoors near a bright but shaded window where the leaves gradually whither and fall off until just the growing tips remain. It is painful to watch, but they quickly rejuvenate with that first October watering.

When it gets hot, aeoniums should be brought inside, not watered, and allowed to go dormant to survive our Arizona summers. Photo by Tom Gatz

Surprisingly, according to Leo, only a few cacti grow strongly during our long, hot summers. These include Coryphantha, Gymnocalycium, Matucana, Opuntia, Tubinicarpus, and columnar cacti, including saguaros. Leo recommends watering these cacti regularly all summer, trying not to let them dry completely for very long. He adds, however, that most other cacti, especially the small ones, stop growing when nights stay above 90 degrees and are at risk of rot if watered at this time. When summer nights are cooler, they can be watered but still need to dry out between watering. Most do not like baking in the heat for any length of time either, so some shade is helpful at this time of year.

Tucson nurseryman Gene Joseph says that during the cool season most aloes can be watered every two weeks (or even weekly if under good light) for optimum growth and appearance. He recommends the same schedule in the hot summer but cautions us to reduce the amount of water we apply. This will keep the roots from drying out too badly and causing root rot. Aloe enthusiast Jordan Mantz advises that large aloe specimens can get by with water only once a month in the summer. Aloe species (or former species) that some Arizona growers have found to be especially sensitive to too much summer water include Aloe arenicola, A. broomii, A. cooperi, A. comosa, A. comptonii, A. dhufarensis, A. dicotoma, A. distans, A. erinaceae, A. glauca, A. hardyi, A. krapohliana, A. melanacantha, A. meyeri, A. pearsonii, A. pillansii, A. plicatilis, A. pratensis, A. reynoldsii and A. variegata. Many of these are from winter rainfall areas in South Africa and should be watered lightly and infrequently during our summers.
During the summer, most agaves in pots appreciate being watered three or four times each month and those in the ground about twice a month if it doesn’t rain. However, according to Tucson agave expert Greg Starr, a few agave species don’t appreciate very much supplemental water once established, such as Agave cerulata, A. deserti and A. utahensis, and may rot if given extra water.

In contrast, some folks mistakenly think that adeniums are low-water plants. In fact, while they need to be kept dry and dormant in a frost-free winter location, once they leaf out, they really thrive and flower better with lots of summer water, low-nitrogen fertilizer and a good half-day of sunshine. Many euphorbias also love our heat, provided they do not burn in the sun, and most appreciate regular summer watering when they are almost dry. And if you took home one of Maurie Clapp’s Arizona Queen of the Night (Peniocereus greggii) seedlings that were brought in by Doug Dawson at the March meeting, they grow quickly with lots of summer water and fertilizer.

Thanks to Cathy Babcock, Rosa Crespo, Angelica Elliot, Brandi Eide, Gene Joseph, Jordan Mantz, Leo Martin and Scott McMahon for commenting on earlier drafts of this article.

2013 Show & Sale
April 5-7

View of the vendor area
Photo by John Crummey
Sue Tyrrel, Show & Sale Chair (left), and Ann Stanton discuss the plant layout. Photo by John Crummey

(left to right) Jackie Vasquez, Nancy Mumpton, Lois Schneberger & Margaret Ann Hecox worked at the registers. Photo by John Crummey
Many member volunteers helped make the 2013 Show & Sale a success.

Sue Tyrrel holding her People’s Choice Award-winning plant, *Rebutia arenacea*.

Jo Davis and Sue Hakala discuss plant set-up. Photos by John Crummey

Steve Mack, Diana Crummey and Gard Roper stand in front of one of the educational exhibits. Photo by Doug Dawson
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**
480-893-1207
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com
Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

**MIKE GALLAGHER**
602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net
Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

**DEAN PATRICK**
480-759-0312
desertpatrick@cox.net
Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).
STEVE PLATH
623-915-7615
revegdude1@juno.com
Specializations include General Propagation and Desert Revegetation, *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus*.

DAN SMITH
480.981.9648
smithdans@cox.net
Specializes in adeniums. raising adeniums from seed, grafting and adenium culture in general

BOB TORREST
480-994-3868
robertst9114@msn.com
Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, *Trichocereus*, and *Opuntia*. 