



## Cacticon 2024 – International Speakers Panel.

### Steve Plath (USA)

Steve was born and raised in west Los Angeles, California, and can't remember a time when plants weren't a part of his life. As a teenager in the 1970's cacti and other succulents grabbed his attention and by 1975 he became a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) clinching his lifelong passion for these unusual plants.



By the 80's he started exhibiting and showing plants as well as started to serve as a board member of clubs. Showing plants gradually lead to judging shows and in the late 80's he was invited to judge the Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum, which he's continued to do so, on and off, ever since. In 2023 he was awarded a lifetime membership by the board of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. Steve has also served as board member and Vice President of the CSSA.

Steve's other passion was putting pencil to paper in the form of drawing. This led to his first career as a successful architectural designer. The 1990's saw him change direction

into professional growing, later transitioning to environmental horticulture, undertaking habitat restoration and cultivation of native plants for revegetation throughout the Southwestern US. Between 2005 to 2018 Steve and his wife Julie owned and managed a native plant nursery, Signature Botanica LLC. He finished his horticulture and restoration career by retiring from the Gila Watershed Partnership in Safford, Arizona in 2023.

