



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
February 2019



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, February 6th at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

Cactus – Chilean Cacti

Succulent – Othonna, Senecio

Save the Date!

FEB. 9 - SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE

MAR. 21- 23RD ORANGE COUNTY CSS SPRING SHOW AND SALE

APR 13 CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE

From Our President:

I hope everyone enjoyed Keith Taylor's presentation last month on staging plants and that you have learned some new techniques and tip to improve your own plant staging.

The Huntington Desert Forum was also well-attended by CSSA affiliate members and everyone who attended couldn't be more happy to see that preceding week's long rain storms cleared away for a beautiful day in the garden. The 2019 season of affiliate cactus & succulent show and sale will begin this month in San Diego. Start planning your calendar. For those who may not be familiar with the term "affiliate," allow me to explain. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) refers to the individual society (both in USA and international) under its umbrella as affiliates, instead of club. Gates CSS happens to be one of the CSSA affiliate and you will often hear people use the term, club or affiliate, to mean the same entity.

The January's mini show plants were well-represented by members. Thank you everyone for participating and we hope to see more new entries and participants. Please consider signing up to volunteer as a judge or helping out with the kitchen duties. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting. Our spring show and sale planning committee is busy with the preparation, and once again we need your help.

More information to come so in the meantime, we are looking forward to having Guillermo Rivera as our guest with his new presentation this month.

Until Wednesday evening...

-Phuc

President	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh	Director	951-897-2220	Karen Roholt
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Sales Chair	909-987-5706	Ann Reynolds			
Cactus Rescue	330-986-6313	Jeffery Loew			
Program chair	661-406-9816	Woody Minnich			

Leadership Team 2019

Our Program This Month

Guillermo Rivera

"A journey through the Altiplano"

This presentation would cover two recent journeys to the western and southern part of Bolivia plus my first "cactus trip" I did to this great country more than 10 years ago! The talk will focus on cactaceae (Lobivia, Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Trichocereus, etc) but will encounter other interesting flora and fauna. We will also explore some of the "islands" within the largest salt flats in the world (visible from the moon): Uyuni Salt Flats.



BIO

Born in Argentina. Owner of **PLANT EXPEDITIONS** (former South America Nature Tours) a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 18 years, throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico and South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia, with emphasis on plants: bromeliads, orchids, cacti, and other succulents.

Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology University of Cordoba

MS Marine Biology.
Northeastern University.
PhD in Botany University of Cordoba.



Next year we are planning the following plant adventures to these countries: Ecuador, Namibia, Brazil, South Africa,

Peru, Argentina-Chile. If you wish to be kept informed about our future trips, please send email to Guillermo at info@plantexpeditions.com or plantexpeditions@gmail.com or visit website: www.plantexpeditions.com



Mini Show Results

Please remember to CLEARLY fill out the Mini show entry forms. **Incomplete or illegible forms will be disqualified.** Please note, we will no longer have the Large and Small categories.

Cactus

Novice

- 1st – Mammillaria bombycine – Ann Platzer
- 2nd –
- 3rd – Mammillaria zeilmanniana – Ann Platzer

Advanced

- 1st – Mammillaria magnifica – Greg and Anna Cavanaugh
- 2nd – Mammillaria perez dela rosae – Frank Nudge
- 3rd – Mammillaria blossfeldiana – Frank Nudge

Succulents

Novice

- 1st – Aloe pearsonii – Ann Platzer
- 2nd – Aloe zanzibarica – Ann Platzer
- 3rd – Aloe brevifolia variegata – Ann Platzer

Intermediate

- 1st – Aloe spec – Judy Horne
- 2nd – Aloe spec – Judy Horne
- 3rd – Aloe spec – Judy Horne

Advanced

- 1st – Aloe ramosissima – David Hawks
- 2nd – Aloe hahnii – Frank Nudge
- 3rd – Aloe aristate – Frank Nudge

Cactus of the Month

Chilean Cacti

There are several species of cacti that grow completely within the borders of Chile. Others cross the Andes and grow further north in South America on the western slopes of the mountains..

Some of the most recognizable genera are Copiapoa, Eriosyce, and Trichocereus. A number of years ago several smaller genera were subsumed into Eriosyce and we recognize them by their old or new names. Such names as Pyrrhocactus, Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Horridocactus, Thelocephala, and Islaya are all now part of Eriosyce.

Chile has a very wide range of climactic growing conditions. From the southern near Antarctic to the Atacama Desert in the north this country has a much broader range of growing conditions than the western United States for example. Right at the Pacific Ocean is one of the driest places on earth near the northern border with Peru. There is no annual rain at all in this region and the few plants that persist there are supplied their water by fogs.

There is a noticeable change in conditions in the northern deserts. The weather is becoming noticeably drier. For this reason some of the most treasured plants from this region are on the verge of becoming extinct. In particular, many of the Copiapoa genus are affected. There will be a time in the not too distant future when the entire Copiapoa genus may be in collections in other parts of the world.

The Chilean plants get what rain that they do receive in the winter. They prefer to go mainly dry in the hot summer months. We find that an occasional sprinkle helps them look better in the summer months, but there is always the chance of rotting these dormant or semi-dormant plants with too much water in summer. In general, they are relatively easy to grow in our climate, as long as care is taken with summer watering.

Pests are the same as on most of our cacti. Your usual pest control will work well on all of these plants.



Copiapoa cinerea



Copiapoa hypogaea



Soehrensia bruchii

Senecio, Othonna

Buck Hemenway

These two genera are a part of one of the largest plant families, Asteraceae (Compositae) nominally, the daisy family, which has more than 1,300 genera and 21,000 species. Most of the family is considered to be non-succulent, but the two genera that are the subject of this month's min-show are succulent, for the most part. The family is found all over the world, but our two genera are mainly African and Madagascan in origin.

Senecio is a very large genus of more than 1,500 species. They range from herbs to small trees, but all can be described as succulent in some way – stems, leaves or roots. Most of our collection plants have similar ray-like flowers that appear to be gathered at the base of the flower and with stamens exerted in a variety of colors from white to bright red.

Many have succulent stems that are mostly round and succulent leaves that have shapes that range from pea-like (*Senecio rowleanus*) to nasturtium-like (*Senecio oxyriifolius* ssp *tropaeolifolius*) or lance-like (*Senecio talinoides* and ssp).

Nearly all of the species self propagate by branching or sending underground offshoots. Most are very easy to grow in our area. They all will grow well with a little shade and many have tolerance for our hot summers. They will all stand a frost, but most will not take a hard freeze.

They are primarily winter growing plants. Flowers can be seen on various species from fall through spring, and are usually showy and attractive.

Othonna are attractive stem succulents that originate in southern Africa. They are mostly smallish shrubs with summer deciduous leaves. It is always a wonder to see the leaves re-emerge in the fall after having fallen during the heat of summer. Care must be taken to avoid overwatering them when they are in their dormant period.

Beautiful yellow daisy-like flowers are plentiful in winter and spring.

They are easy to grow as long as one does not try to force them to grow in summer.

Both of these genera are generally pest free. Aphids like the new growing tips of the senecios in spring and summer, but are easily controlled.



Senecio barbertonicus (mid-winter flower)



Senecio pendulus (red) and *Senecio rowleanus* (String of Pearls) flowers. String is very fragrant



Othonna euphorbioides with *O. capensis* flower

2019 Upcoming Events

- FEB. 9 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE,
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA
INFO 619-990-2051
- MAR 21-23 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY,
SPRING SHOW AND SALE, THURS. 21ST 6-9pm, FRI. 22ND 9-7pm, SAT. 23RD 9-5pm.
1000 STATE COLLEGE BL (Anaheim United Methodist Church)
ANAHEIM, CA INFO 562-587-3357
- APR 13 CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE 9am TO 3pm
ELKS LODGE, 158 N. CONEJO SCHOOL ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362
INFO: conejocss@hotmail.com



Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

Tephrocactus geometricus
Photo - G. Cavanaugh

44th Annual Show and Sale
May 10 and 11, 2019 9 AM – 4 PM

Redlands Church of the Nazarene **Plant Sale May 10 and 11**
1307 E. Citrus Ave. Redlands, CA 92374 **Exhibit Show May 11**



GATES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
New Member / Renewal

Date: _____

Renewal Year: _____

Name: _____

Spouse, S/O: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues:

\$20 Newsletter delivered by Email

\$35 Newsletter delivered by Mail

\$10 Name Badge

\$_____ Total Paid

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