



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
 May 2019



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, May 1st at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

Cactus –

Best Staged Cacti

Succulent –

Best Staged Succulent

Save the Date!

APR. 28
 HUNTINGTON
 PLANT SALE

MAY 4-5
 SUNSET CACTUS
 AND SUCCULENT
 SOCIETY SHOW
 AND SALE

From Our President:

As we approach the final days leading up to the annual show and sale, I want to take a pause and recognize everyone who has already volunteered so much of their time and effort through the preparation phase. The club has participated in several local garden events during the last 2 months and, being our ambassadors, these members have helped greatly with promoting our huge event. The succulent propagation talks are always well-received with Rene Hernandez sharing his expertise. The recent Riverside Flower Show saw hundreds of people passing by our club's information booth, each one getting a healthy reminder of our upcoming annual show/sale. Thank you to Ann Platzer, Joann Crabtree, Sande Martin, Jeff Loew, Epimenio and Diane Roman for their dedication throughout the show.

In addition, I want to also recognize the Gates' Show/Sale Planning Committee who has and is still working feverishly up to the last minute fine-tuning everything to bring us another outstanding succulent event. You too will be a part of this moment as you prepare your magnificent plants ready for the show and ready for some plant shopping. Don't forget that you can also volunteer in so many ways to make your time and experience even more fun and memorable. When you volunteer at least four hours during the two days, you will get a special commemorative club T-shirt to wear. The club will provide breakfast and lunch to all volunteers and vendors. Please consider bringing your favorite appetizer, snack, or dessert to share in the potluck festivity. Did I mention that we need cardboard boxes- lots of them! Collect and bring as many as you have to the event. If you need assistance with delivering them, we can help with the logistics. Let me know! One more point of interest. Do come to our biggest yearly event and enjoy the many succulents both for sale and in the show amongst fellow succulent enthusiasts. Full event schedule is available at the meeting.

-Phuc

President	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh	Director	951-897-2220	Karen Roholt
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Cactus Rescue	330-986-6313	Jeffery Loew			
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Leadership Team 2019

Our Program This Month

Kal Kaminer

"Don't Feed the Baboons, and Other Things Learned While Succulent Hunting in South Africa"

Kal spent a whole month last fall touring the Transvaal region of South Africa, searching out the succulents native to that area. His primary focus was the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. This is a region of South Africa not often visited by those in the cactus and succulent hobby. Kal will be showing us many of the wonderful and bizarre succulents he found on his travels, as well as the interesting horticultural tidbits he picked up from observing these plants where they grow.



BIO

Kal Kaminer has been obsessively growing cactus and succulents ever since he moved to Los Angeles and needed some plants to fill an empty balcony. Fast forward a few years, and now he's a vendor at many of the Southern California cactus and succulent shows (including our own), specializing in Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, and Stapeliads, of which he grows over 300 species. He's also an avid

grafter, focusing on grafting the most unusual and bizarre cactus he can find. Kal is a board member of the Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent societies. His new nursery, Never Enough Cactus, located in Lake View Terrace in the San Fernando Valley, will have its grand opening on May 18-19. Follow him on Instagram: @NeverEnoughCactus

Mini Show Results

Please remember to **CLEARLY** fill out the Mini show entry forms. **Incomplete or illegible forms will be disqualified.**

Cactus

Novice

- 1st – Echinocereus engelmannii – Ann Platzer
- 2nd – Echinocereus stoloniferns – Ann Platzer
- 3rd – Echinocereus aguirrei – Sue Cameron

Intermediate

- 1st – Echinocereus dasycanthus – Ann Reynolds
- 2nd – Echinocereus sp. – Karen Roholt
- 3rd –

Advanced

- 1st – Echinocereus viridiflorus davisii – Frank Nudge
- 2nd – Echinocereus rayonensis – Frank Nudge
- 3rd – Echinocereus triglochidiatus inermis – Frank Nudge

Succulents

Novice

- 1st – Aloe pearsonii – Ann Platzer
- 2nd – Aloe olk – Karen Fleisher
- 3rd – Aloe pearsonii – Ann Platzer

Intermediate

- 1st – Aloe vito "green sand" – Karen Roholt
- 2nd – Aloe somaliensis – Mike Madrigal
- 3rd – Aloe Variegata – Ann Reynolds
- HM – Aloe Castillaniae – Mike Madrigal

Advanced

- 1st – Aloe castilloniae – Rico Leon
- 2nd – Aloe Hybrid – Frank Nudge
- 3rd – Aloe "Wiley Coyotee" – Rico Leon

STAGING

What does that mean anyway? Why do we do it? What good does it do? Do I have to? All good questions and we'll try to make sense out of this portion of our hobby.

This all has to do with presenting our prize possessions in their best possible light. We all suffer from the same syndrome. We love our succulent plants. We continue to acquire more and more of them for no better reason than we are infatuated with the look and style of them. The next extension of that love is to share them with other cactus crazies. Our clubs and societies provide venues to do exactly that. They are called Shows.

I'll bet that more than 50% of the members of any C&S club are members because they attended a Show and were overwhelmed with the beauty and variety of the plants presented there. Most of us have at least slightly green thumbs. We all live in a climate suited for growing succulents. We come to the hobby with our prized "Bunny Ears" or "Totem Pole" or "Flapjack Plant", never imagining the tremendous variety of plants that are so closely related.

So, what has all of this to do with Staging?

Staging is the final preparatory step to presenting our prized plants to the public. It is certainly not the main criteria for judging whether or not the plant is "Best in Show", but it sets the plant up for appreciation by beginner and expert alike.

As we have been shown, Staging a plant is really an art form. We try to find a platform to present the plant at its very best. We select a pot that complements the form, texture and color of the plant. We select top dressing and a few accent rocks to emphasize and show off some important feature of the plant.

The art of staging tries to mimic nature. We want the plant to look like it just decided to grow in that pot so it can be viewed at its best. Our staging should complement the plant and never become the main focal point of the viewer.

We never insist that the exhibitor of a plant use an expensive ceramic pot to "show off" his plant. In fact the "Best Plant in Show" at the Gates C&SS shows for the last two years were shown in plastic nursery pots. Clean pots, but not fancy pots.

So it is really up to the exhibitor. The main thing is to bring your plants to the show. Share them with your fellow club members and the public. Here are a few pictures of well staged plants:
Buck Hemenway
May 2010





Simple, beautiful statement



How am I going to show this beauty?



This is how to show a collection



You can see this in its habitat



This is true art



Such a beautiful presentation

Gates April Events



Our Show Banner is up! Did you see it? Remember to spread the word about our show and sale. Tell all your friends and family!



A HUGE THANK YOU to our Volunteers at the Riverside Flower show!

2019 Upcoming Events

- APR. 28 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 to 5pm HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504
- MAY 4-5 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM 4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 5 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE---9am to 4pm SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS, INFO. 310-833-6823
- MAY 10-11 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY- SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:00 pm, REDLANDS CHURCH OF NAZARENE--1307 E. CITRUS AVE., REDLANDS, CA INFO: 909-910-9195 or www.gatesscss.com
- MAY 25-26 CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4pm), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- JUNE 1-2 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY—SUMMER SHOW & SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. 858-382-1797



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