



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
August 2017



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, August 2nd at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

Cactus – North American Columnars

Succulent – Lithops

Save the Date!

AUG. 12-13 32ND
 ANNUAL INTERCITY
 SHOW

SEPT. 2 -
 HUNTINGTON
 BOTANICAL
 GARDENS

From the President:

Now that we are fully immersed with our garden in the midst of summer, it's time to share some of your prized plantings. Starting this month, we would like to start a new addition in the newsletter where members can showcase and share their succulent/cactus collection with the club. Members are encouraged to send in pictures or photos of your plants, whether in a pot or in the ground. Each month some of these photos will be selected for inclusion in the newsletter for all to experience and enjoy. Be sure to include the name of the plant (if you know it) or a brief description. Do not stress if you do not know the exact name; we just want everyone to be able to see each other's plants...and have fun. So, start submitting those pictures of your succulent garden.

Here's some update on the club's leadership team. Andrew Gould has resumed his role as one of our Board Director and we are excited to have him back with the club. The Board has approved and Jeff Loews has accepted the position of rescue cactus Chairperson. Please contact Jeff with any rescue cactus-related matters and do join us at the next rescue event.

The 34th Annual Succulent Plant Symposium will once again be at the Huntington Botanical Gardens on September 2, 2017. It's a day full of expert speakers on succulents of course! Pre-registration is required and details are in this edition. You will also get a chance to shop and buy plants from their nursery. Keep watering the plants ...and yourself.

- Phuc

President	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh	Director	909-633-6934	Jo Ann Crabtree
Vice President	760-881-0184	Trisha Davis	Director	909-567-4027	Andrew Gould
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Cactus Rescue	330-986-6313	Jeff Leow			
Program chair	661-406-9816	Woody Minnich			

Leadership Team 2017

Our Speaker This Month

Eunice Thompson

“The Islands of Baja”

I look forward to sharing the thrill of exploring the islands of Baja California in the Sea of Cortez. We will observe the diversity of the cacti and succulent endemics and compare them to their cousins found close by on the mainland.



BIO

I became passionate about Cactus & Succulents about 10 years ago, and sought out like minded hobbyists and experts to gain knowledge of these plants.

I participated in many club activities and eventually serving as a president of the Long Beach Cactus Club. I was able to combine my passion for travel and photography with cacti and succulents in their native habitats.

My first opportunity presented itself join an expedition to Baja California in 2008 to visit the native plants of that region. Since then my travels have taken me back to Baja and mainland Mexico as well as the many desert habitats across the globe.

This has also given me an opportunity to observe the hobby first hand in UK and mainland Europe. Currently I am working on filming a travel documentary feature cactus and succulents and their impact.

I organize small tours to mainly to Baja California but also other plant habitats around the world.

I am co-author of “Tea at Gordon's” – a self-published tribute to Gordon Rowley

Too many plant cuttings?
Extra pots?

Clean them up and Donate them!

Our club is always accepting donations, just drop them off at the monthly meeting ticket table. All funds for donations go directly into the club and are used towards future events.

Phuc's Cactus Collection





34th Succulent Plants Symposium
September 02, 2017
Saturday, 9–5 p.m.

Speakers this year will be:

- ◆ Mark Dimmitt, eremophytoeugeneicist, Tucson, AZ – Five Star Botanizing in South Africa: You don't have to camp in

the hinterlands to see the great plants!

- ◆ James D. Mauseth, University of Texas, Austin – Some unexpected consequences of becoming adapted to desert conditions
- ◆ Cody Coyotee Howard, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville – Bulbous monocots: their evolution into horticultural gems
- ◆ Greg Krehel, echinopsisfreak.com, Ponte Vedra Beach Florida – Freaky flowers: the stunning beauty of Echinopsis flowers captured via time lapse photography
- ◆ Sula Vanderplank, CICESE and San Diego Natural History Museum – Rooted in the Islands: Documenting changes in the perennial flora of the archipelago of Bahia de Los Angeles, Mexico
- ◆ Gary D. Roberson, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California – Relocation of the Loran Whitelock Cycad Collection

In addition to the speaking agenda, there will be a continental breakfast, silent auction, lunch, and succulent sales in their nursery.

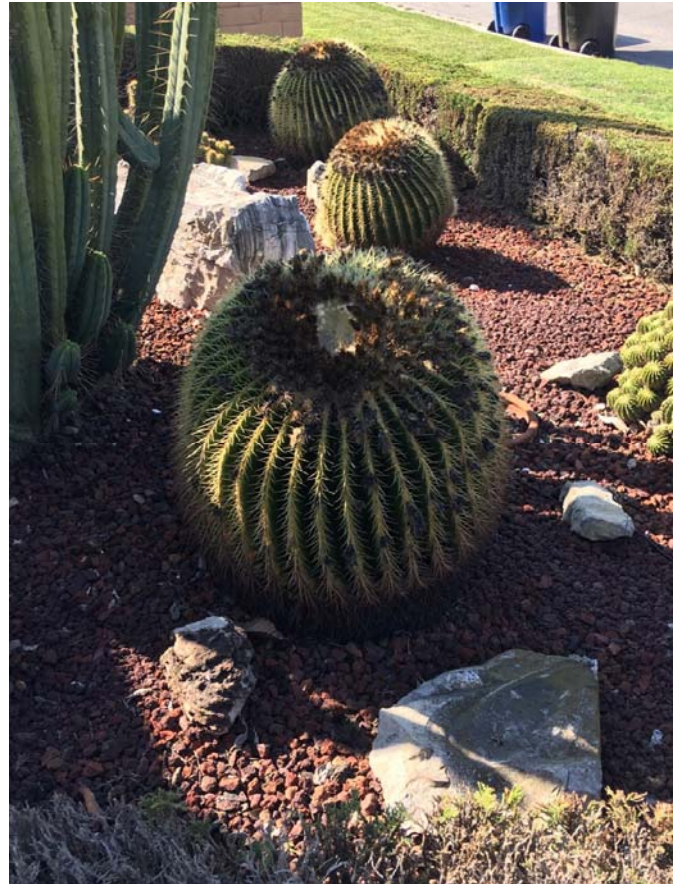
You don't want to miss this fun and worthwhile event! Succulent experts from across the United States will discuss topics ranging from

time-lapse photography of cactus blooms to botanizing in South Africa. One of the program's highlights will be a presentation by famed plant anatomist James Mauseth on some unexpected adaptations in desert plants. \$85. Registration required: 626-405-3504. Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center



CACTUS RESCUE

Free Golden Barrel. You dig it! Contact Jeff or Phuc for details.



Ask the Experts
 Have a mystery plant? would you Like to know the species name of your plants? Well the experts are here to help! Bring in your plant, or a good picture, to our next meeting and we will call on our expert members to help solve your mystery

2017 Upcoming Events

- AUG. 12-13 32nd ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ 805-390-2139
- SEPT. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504
- SEPT. 24 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615 INFO. 562-631-5876
- Oct. 7-8 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING, INFO661-8318488
- OCT. 28-29 PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS 230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA INFO brita_miller@yahoo.com ph.858-776-7216
- NOV. 4-5 SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052

North American Columnars

The most iconic of all cacti are the columnar plants that inhabit the arid regions of sub-tropical North America. From the giants such as Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) and Cardon (*Pachycereus pringlei*), to the smaller genera such as *Bergerocactus*, *Stenocereus*, all of them exhibit the same general growth form. Some, don't have the strength to grow upright such as the Creeping Devil (*Stenocereus eruca*), but a casual examination of the plant will show that they all look very similar as far as growth habit.

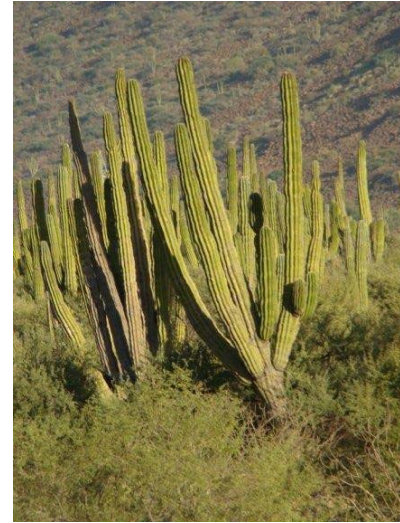
The two most common plants in the Sonoran Desert which takes up most of Arizona and the Northern Baja California peninsula are Saguaro and Cardon. They are the giants of the North American deserts, growing to well over 60 feet tall and with many stems until they are monster plants weighing in the several tons.

There are species of *Bergerocactus* and *Stenocereus* that grow on hillsides overlooking the Pacific ocean in San Diego County and Western Baja and others that grow in central Baja where measurable rainfall is very light and summertime high temperatures can be extreme.

In general, we find North American columnars very easy to grow in our inland valleys. Most will stand freezes to the mid-twenties and are happiest when our temperatures are at their highest in the summer. The key to success is drainage and not overwatering. Some of them come from regions that have summer or winter rainfall exclusively. Some care should be taken to not overwater a Saguaro in the winter for example. Others, such as Cardon experience summer and winter rainfall in habitat and are well adapted to life in an Inland Empire garden that gets water years around.

They all tend to have large, showy flowers, mainly white and occurring in late spring throughout the summer.

There is no better example of a cactus in a garden than a columnar plant from our own part of the world.



Pachycereus pringlei
(Cardon)



Carnegiea gigantea
(Saguaro)



Stenocereus
stallatus

Lithops

Buck Hemenway

“Living Stones” are among nature’s most interesting “mimicry” living things. Their survival depends on them looking like just another rock, so the grazing herds won’t see them and eat them. They survive in some of the harshest arid conditions on earth. The main populations of Lithops occur in northwestern South Africa and southwestern Namibia in an area known as Namaqualand.

It is amazing to see them growing in quartzitic fields, no protection from other larger plants and getting rain for a 6 to 10 week period annually, if at all. Some populations are irrigated by fogs only.

The genus Lithops is part of the Aizoaceae family of plants, which include all of the ice plants.

They are among the most difficult of genera for us to keep alive in our collections. It seems like one watering at the wrong time will kill them outright. All of us have gone out to look at our collections and found rotting Lithops and sworn “NEVER AGAIN”, only to see one at the next sale and scoop it up.

Here are a few tips on keeping Lithops alive. Knowing a little about what is happening with them is helpful. Most of them flower in the fall. That means anytime from September to January in our climate. After they flower, they enter a dormant period. Dormant in this case means that they quit taking moisture from the soil. During this dormant period their systems are designed to grow new leaves, using the nutrients and liquid stored in the exiting leaves. They don’t need us then.

When the old leaves are completely shriveled up to brown husks, sometime in April or so, that’s when they get thirsty. They will take water until they flower again, unless, it gets really hot. When our daytime temperatures reach over 95 deg for an extended period, they go dormant again.

Watering Lithops during either dormant period is very risky and will cause them to rot and die.

They have beautiful daisy-like flowers which are either white or yellow. There are more or less 40 species with a large number of subspecies recognized by various groups.



Lithops karasmontana (new leaves emerging)



Lithops herrei



Lithops in bloom, courtesy of PlantzAfrica.com

From: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
13312 Rancho Rd. Ste 18 PMB 333
Oak Hills CA 92344

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