



Sweepstakes Winner

# Open Gates

## A publication of the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society March 2017

NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, March 1st at 7:00 PM

AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1307 E  
CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

### Plants of the Month

**Cactus – CA, NV, AZ  
Natives**

**Succulent -  
Pelargonium,  
Monsonia**

### Save the Date!

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> - Palms to Pine  
festival

**MAR. 23-25** - Orange  
county cactus and  
succulent society spring  
show and sale

**APR. 8-9** - south coast  
cactus and succulent  
society show & sale

**APR. 23** - Huntington  
plant sale

### **From the President:**

The “official” start of the cactus and succulent show and sale season is finally upon us with the first one in San Diego a few weeks ago. There’s plenty more to come so keep that show list handy. Preparation for our show and sale is well underway and we will need many volunteers like you to make it successful and fun. As usual, I will have full updates at the meeting. In the meantime, continue to enter your plants in the monthly mini-show to fine-tune them for our big plant show in May.

May I digress for a moment- **please re-new your club membership dues this month!**

Spring is coming later this month so here are a few upcoming local club-associated events that you can participate and have fun. The Palms to Pines Festival is Saturday March 4, 2017 from 10AM until 4PM. Address is Lawrence Hutton Community Center at 660 Colton Ave. in Colton, CA. There will be a plant competition show so stage and enter your plant. Our club will be a vendor selling plants and we will also be teaching a class on growing and propagating succulents. There will be many other horticulture-related programs and activities so see you there.

Want to learn the secrets of growing quality cacti and succulents? No, it’s not the deluge of fresh rain water we’ve had over the last 60 days...although that’s a healthy heap of a precious commodity most welcomed by any gardener. Could it be more pumice and well-drained soil mix? The answer to your most perplexing dilemma about growing and cultivating succulents is the topic of this month’s guest lecture. His talk will be chalk full of information for any grower, whether novice or expert and everyone in between. Need I say more...it’s time the annual Woody Minnich succulent exposition.

Phuc

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**Leadership Team 2017**

## This Month's Speaker

### "The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and other Succulents"

How do you find out what the secrets are? They are important strategies about how to grow plants well and they can be accomplished by doing five easy things: visiting habitats, traveling from garden to garden the world over, participating in shows, accessing numerous cactus and succulent books, and most importantly, talking with the growers of these wonderful plants. It is your awesome opportunity to learn from these various experiences!

With these experiences, it doesn't take long to learn the many different approaches on how to grow quality cacti and succulents. Like most things, years of experience help, but seeing cacti and succulents in the field (their natural habitat) gives one incredibly valuable insight.

In a general way, we will cover all of these aspects and how they relate to you and your overall growing environment. Each one of us live in a slightly, to extremely different micro niche. It is from all of the above mentioned factors and how we apply them that will determine how successfully we grow our plants. Don't forget, much like life itself, it is often from our mistakes that we gain our greatest learning experiences.



Convention Sales Chairman, Convention Speaker coordinator, 2016 Mid-States Conference Co-chair, accredited C & S judge and writer -photographer. He has also served in almost all positions of leadership for many regional clubs and is currently the president of the new Santa Fe C & S club.

Woody is probably best recognized for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. After all, he was a celebrated secondary school teacher for 32 years, where he taught Art, Graphic Arts-Design and Architecture. He has now become a recognized international speaker and has presented at cactus and succulent events all over the world.



He has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters and journals including the CSSA journal and his photographs are also well published. His work is featured in many books including: "The New Cactus Lexicon" *Hunt and Charles*, "Mammillaria" *Pilbeam*, and "Echeveria Cultivars" *Schulz & Kapitany*. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal article "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" featuring show plants, shows, and the growers of the pictured plants. He is also often called upon to do new book reviews for the CSSA journal

His involvement in the cactus and succulent world is well represented by his 45 years of field work in regions including: Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. He often goes to remote places where few, if anyone, have ever explored and as a result of this field work, he has introduced many new taxa. Also, being a recognized grower, Cactus Data Plants since 1975, Woody has developed strong interests in both succulent plant taxonomy and the many cultivation secrets that help us to grow these unique plants.



### **BIO**

Woody, as he is commonly known, has been in the cactus hobby for some 47 years and has become well known for his participation and contributions. He has been awarded honorary life membership to ten clubs, as well as, a life member and Friend award with the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) His many leadership roles include: National Show Chairman,



## **Mini Show Results**

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

### **Cactus**

#### **Novice**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sulcoreautia arencea – Mike Madrigal

#### **Intermediate**

1<sup>st</sup> Rebutia heliosa – Karl Trisler

2<sup>nd</sup> Rebutia – Judy Horne

#### **Advanced**

1<sup>st</sup> Rebutia krainziana – Greg and Anna Cavanaugh

2<sup>nd</sup> Rebutia heliosa - Greg and Anna Cavanaugh

3<sup>rd</sup> Sulcorebutia rauschii - Greg and Anna Cavanaugh

### **Succulent**

#### **Novice**

1<sup>st</sup> Aloe ramosissima – Mike Madrigal

#### **Intermediate**

1<sup>st</sup> Aloe spec – Karen Roholt

2<sup>nd</sup> Alow hybrid “cats tongue” - -Karen Roholt

3<sup>rd</sup> Aloe brevifolia variegata – Karen Roholt

HM Aloe descognsii -Karl Trisler

HM Aloe hybrid – Karen Roholt

HM Aloe “pink blush” – Rene Hernandez

#### **Advanced**

1<sup>st</sup> Aloe castilloniae – Rico Leon

HM Aloe castilloniae

## **Ostler Auction**

Saturday, April 15, 2017 Juniper Hills Community Center  
31401 106<sup>TH</sup> street East  
Juniper Hills, CA.

### **PREVIEW**

10:30AM AUCTION BEGINS 11:30AM  
THIS IS A PRIVATE AUCTION OF 40+  
QUALITY SHOW PLANTS.

CASH OR CHECK ONLY, NO CREDIT  
CARDS, NO PHONE BIDS.

NO SHIPPING; PLANTS ARE AS IS  
WHERE IS.

DETAILS: 661-944-9844



**South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society**

[www.southcoastcss.org](http://www.southcoastcss.org)

Show included with paid Garden admission: adult \$9, senior/student \$6, age 5-12 \$4, under 5 free. Garden members free.

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale**  
**April 8-9, 2017 9AM to 4 PM**  
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

## 2017 Upcoming Events

- MAR. 4<sup>TH</sup> PALMS TO PINES GARDEN FESTIVAL AT LAWRENCE HUTTON COMMUNITY CENTER 660 COLTON AVE COLTON, CA. 10 Am – 4 PM
- MAR. 23-25 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE THURS. 23<sup>RD</sup> 6-8PM---FRI. MAR. 24<sup>TH</sup> 9-7PM---SAT. MAR. 25<sup>TH</sup> 9-5  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
- APR. 8-9 SOUTH COAST CACTUS AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE  
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.,  
PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- APR. 29 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 4:30 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504
- MAY 6-7 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 7 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE---9am to 4pm  
SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS, INFO. 310-833-6823
- MAY 12-13 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 35<sup>TH</sup> SHOW AND SALE  
FRI & SAT 9-4:00 pm, at LAND SCAPES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STYLE  
450 E. ALESSANDRO BLVD., RIVERSIDE, CA INFO. 951-360-8802
- MAY 20-21 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE 10-4 pm  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA  
INFO. 562-631-5876

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.



## Cacti of California, Nevada, Arizona

By: Buck Hemenway

This month's category of eligible cacti is very large. Included are a number of the smallest cacti up to the huge Saguaro of Arizona. Plants belonging to the genera *Sclerocactus*, *Ferocactus*, *Stenocereus*, *Echinocereus*, *Opuntia*, *Cylindropuntia* and a number of others occur in the Southwest corner of the United States. We have not limited entries to plants that ONLY grow in these states, but to all which grow there, even though they may grow elsewhere, such as Mexico, New Mexico, etc.

The grand plants of our California deserts which include *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Ferocactus viridescens*, *Mammillaria dioica*, *Mammillaria grahamii*, *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Echinocereus englemannii*, nearly 20 varieties of *Opuntia* and 15 or so *Cylindropuntia* make a good beginning for a potential list of show plants. Add to that list, the many varieties native to Arizona and our mini-show table should be overflowing.

The growing conditions that are present where these plants grow vary in the extreme. *Ferocactus viridescens* grows overlooking the Pacific Ocean in San Diego County, never seeing freezing temps and rarely enduring daytime temps over 85 deg. *Ferocactus cylindraceus* grows in the inland deserts of Southern California, NV and AZ and endures freezing temperatures in the extreme and daytime temps exceeding 120 deg F. *Echinocactus polycephalus* grows in the Mojave Desert and regularly sees snow in the winter and extreme day time temps in the summer.

Most will grow easily in our collections and landscapes in the Inland Empire. Always making sure that there is adequate and fast drainage helps. Those plants that grow at high elevations in Nevada and Arizona need to be protected from our hot afternoon sun in summer. At our nursery, we do not irrigate plants in the ground which are endemic to the Sonoran Desert in the winter at all, keeping our finger crossed that we won't have too much rainfall. We water them thoroughly about once per month in the summer months, to approximate the summer monsoon rains of that region.

Pests minimal, always keep an eye out for mealy bugs.



***Ferocactus cylindraceus* at Corn Springs, CA**



***Echinocereus englemannii* at Anza Borrego**



***Mammillaria dioica* at Anza Borrego**



## **Pelargonium, Monsonia**

By: Buck Hemenway

These plants are part of the Geraniaceae family that includes such garden favorites as Geraniums. The only succulents in the family occur in the Monsonia and Pelargonium genera. Sarcocaulon has been redefined as a genus and included in Monsonia. We will recognize both names in all shows for the foreseeable future.

Not all plants in either genus are truly succulent, but we admit all to our shows. The plants in this group are primarily succulent in nature and form woody shrubs and geophytic forms. The stem and bark of the Monsonia genus are highly resinous and flammable and have been used locally as firewood with the resulting name "Bushman's Candle."

All plants in these genera have showy flowers. Pelargonium flowers tend to be small, but the plants are covered with them with colors ranging from purple to bright red to yellow and white. Monsonia flowers are larger, fewer but showy and range in color from reddish pink to yellow.

Plants of both genera are easy to grow in Southern California. Monsonias' habitats are for the most part in Namaqualand and southern Namibia where there is very little rainfall and many of them exist on fog for moisture. Drainage is key to successful cultivation of Monsonias and many Pelargoniums. They do well in the ground and in pots, liking a little afternoon shade in the hottest areas. They will take some freezing, coming back from a cold induced die back and always add showy color to our succulent landscape plantings.

Monsonias have spines and grow in some of the most inhospitable growing conditions in Southern Africa. A few Pelargoniums have spines, but they are such vigorous growers that they outgrow the occasional antelope that might find them delicious in habitat.

Pests are present, but we find that they will be the last to act as home to mealy bugs and aphids. Any bug infestations are quickly cured with normal practices.

If one researches specific Monsonia species, some will be found to grow at very high altitude in South Africa in the Richtersveld and as such will be hardy in our coldest areas up to 3,500 feet elevation or so.



**Monsonia ciliata**



**Monsonia multifida**



**Pelargonium echinatum**

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