



*Gates Cactus
and
Succulent Society*

JANUARY 2007

NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " JANUARY 3rd

AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.

Program The Huntington Centennial

Gary Lyons has been involved with the succulent world for many years and is the Curator of the Cactus Collection at The Huntington Library. His talk will be on the first 100 years of the Cactus Collection at The Huntington Botanical Gardens, with emphasis on the early days. It will be interesting to compare the gardens as they are today with the past.

As a follow on, there is a "Curator's Walk" on Saturday, January 27 at The Huntington in the Cactus Collection. It begins at 9:30 and will last for around an hour. It will highlight the aloes in bloom in the gardens there. Price for the tour is \$15.00 for non-members and \$10.00 for members of The Huntington Library.

Happy New Year to ALL! And I hope that everyone is having a wonderful holiday season.

I thought that our Christmas Potluck Dinner was exceptional again this year. **Thanks to all who worked so hard** getting the tables decorated, the huge meal set up, served, and cleaned up in such short order. And a special thanks to **Mel and Peg Parks** for putting together another beautiful rack of gift plants. The individual plants were wrapped just beautifully. And the best part was that everyone received a plant; some lucky ones even received a larger six inch potted cactus. What a wonderful Society we have!

All those to whom I've spoken thought the Madrigal Singers were even better this year. What say you?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2007

I am really looking forward to the new year, 2007. The numbers are amazing. How many of us read '1984' when it was first published and wondered what these times might be like? It's as hard to envision 50 years from now as it was then.

Your Board of Directors has outlined a number of activities for 2007 which should keep our members excited about our hobby and learning new things about those fantastic plants that we all love. We'll have interesting speakers on fascinating topics. We plan to have two Home Tours, one in February and one in October. We'll have our annual BBQ in the fall. We will do a trip to the Encinitas/Vista area in June. Our annual Sale and Show will be held on June 9. We're planning another 'hands on' evening with emphasis on the culture of succulent plants in August. No doubt there will be other activities that come up, but that's where we are now.

The annual Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center will be held on Saturday January 20 at 9:30 AM. The aloes should be in full regalia and I look forward to this event every year.

We will have a Home Tour on February 24th that will include Dennis Kucera's hillside yard, his neighbor Bob Orth's planting and Judy Horne's property. More details next month, but save the date.

We all should be proud of our support of the club in 2006. We are ending the year with \$1,740 in the checking account (we also have a CD with \$4,709 for back up) which is more that we've had in the bank, at year end, for a long time. Thanks for your support of our Show and Sale, the Annual Auction and our monthly meeting raffle.

Just a note for those who might attend. The bi-annual convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) will be held in Seattle during May. The dates are May 25 - 31, 2007. I can tell you from experience that there is no better way to cram your head full of succulent stuff than at the CSSA convention. It's pretty amazing to be there with 300 or so Succulent Crazyes from all over the world.

Thanks again for your support of our activities. Membership is growing and 2007 looks like a terrific year for Gates C&SS. *Buck*

HAZELLE & DAVIS NEWMAN AWARD.

There was only one nominating letter for the award this year. Maybe because the nominees appeared to be unbeatable.

And during the evening we didn't have to mark our ballots. You acclaimed Karen and Cris Roholt to receive the 2006 Award. The Roholts joins the long list of previous recipients.. That list was published previously in the November O/G. Congratulations to the Roholts for the many hours and special efforts you have donated to the society over the years.

CONGRATULATIONS ROHOLTS.

The Award will be presented during the January 2007 Meeting.



Member Spotlight; by Karen Roholt

Dennis Kucera is a retired manager of the UCR Botanic Gardens. He joined Gates around 1970 and has grown succulents for 60 years. His favorites are aloes and echinocereus. Dennis is also a member of the Moreno Valley Garden Club, Granite Hill Gardeners, and the National Pygmy Goats Association. Dennis serves our club in many ways. Among them, he is on the Gates Board of Directors and he runs our Mini Shows, including keeping track of the points earned at our monthly meetings. Dennis lives in Moreno Valley.

Don and Mary Alice McGrew joined Gates around 2004. At this time, they don't have a favorite plant. Many plants of a wide variety do appeal to them and those they like very much. They are also members of the Rare Fruit Growers. Dan is a California Probate Referee and Mary Alice is retired. They live in Reche Canyon.

MINI-SHOW AWARDS WERE PRESENTED IN DECEMBER

At our December Christmas party the 10 persons with the highest point totals for the 2006 Mini-Shows received beautiful pots handcrafted **by Joe Wujcik**. It was more fun and more of a surprise to announce the 10 winners at our Christmas party before we published the winners in the Open Gates. So, Here then are the High Pointers for 2006.

Dennis Kucera

POINT TOTALS for Mini-Shows 2006

1. 409 points Bob Laughlin
2. 217 points Dennis Kucera
3. 210 points Yvonne Hemenway
4. 199 points Buck Hemenway
5. 190 points Vince, K athy Conway
6. 187 points Joella Olson
7. 105 points Bertie Lou Hazel
8. 85 points Ina O’Kane
8. 85 points Karen, Chris Roholt
9. 70 points Karl Osborn
9. 70 points Judy Horne
10. 55 points Mlichael Green
11. 50 points Alice Beardsley
11. 50 points Dan Griffith
12. 40 points John Zasadzinski
12. 40 points Kimberly Urman
13. 25 points Edna Osborne
14. 20 points Jannet Burnham
15. 15 points Marie Hempy
15. 15 points Ann Reynolds
15. 15 points Helen Hughs
15. 15 points Betty Ann Kent
16. 10 points Frank Nudge
16. 10 points Helen Marie Hibbing
17. 5 points Norm Navarre



And don’t forget the ‘Aloe Walk’ at the JMCC on January 20th @ 9:30.



.DUES ARE DUE

Yes, It Is That Time again. The dues remain at \$12, Ten Bucks, a dollar a month, far less than the cost of our world famous Society Newsletter, Open Gates.

To make it easier on me, and to pick up mistakes on our mailing list, I’ll have some renewal slips at the Meeting. You’ll need to fill one out in order to renew.

There will be a place for your e-mail address. The Board is asking you to consider receiving “The Chapter Newsletter” by e-mail. You’ll receive it earlier (maybe, even on time!), pictures will be in color and the Society will save \$1, one buck, every month. At the moment, we spend near \$100 a month on printing and postage. More importantly, We’ll send you the membership e-mail addresses, on request. Then you can send any important info discovered on the web, as a FYI, to the e-mail members. Many of us simply do not have enough time to search the internet, and alas, there is so much useable info to be found there. For example see the article provided by our VP, Mike Green, in this OG.

OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Discussion, and Refreshments Tables will be reopened for the January 2007 Meeting.

Bring your Show and Tell plants to discuss or to get identified. A good picture will also do!

If you can, bring some ‘Goodies’ to support our popular *Refreshment Table*.

And a special thank you to those who frequently bring the goodies we enjoy so much.

We will need to circulate a list so that you can sign up to be a Hostess/Host for one month this year. If you didn’t take a turn last year, why not give it a try this year. You only get to do this every three or four years!

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

January 2007 *Mammillaria*

by *Dennis Kucera*

Again, from our most popular section of Cactaceae, *Mammillaria* is the cactus of the month. Some groups of *Mammillarias* have been our special plant of the month three other times. Marilyn Newcomer has given us excellent write-ups in the past.

There are almost 300 species of this low growing cactus. They are native to the southwestern United States. Edmund C. Jaeger lists four species in California. *Mammillaria* species are most common in Mexico, with almost 200 species described. More species wait to be discovered. Central America has two species as does South America. The West Indies also have two species while Baja California has twenty five species. Hortus Third describes Mams as low, simple cespitose plants with a hemispherical to oblong body and with milky or watery juice. Mams also have ungrooved, succulent tubercles each with a terminal spine-bearing (spiniferous) areole and an axillary flower bearing (floriferous) areole. These tubercles are spirally arranged in several rows according to the species. The flowers are mostly lateral and diurnal. The small fruits are naked, red, and mostly club shaped. Cacti specialists now offer over one hundred species for sale. The reasons that Mams are so popular were best stated by Marilyn in the March 1997 Open Gates: "These cacti flower readily; most are undemanding of space or particularly high temperatures; and have a knack for surviving mal-treatment. They are doubly appealing because of their beauty. Rarely a month will go by without some of them in bloom."

Adrian Hardy Haworth (*Haworthia*), an English botanist, first described the genus *Mammillaria* in 1812. He spelled the genus as "Mamillaria" (with just 2 "m"s instead of 3 "m"s) as is found in Edmund Jaeger's desert wildflower book.

For the best care of these plants, I quote Marilyn: "Watering should be geared to the plant's growth. In winter and early spring, watering should be applied sparingly to keep the soil from drying out completely. Wait for a warm, bright period and water thoroughly, giving them 3 to 4 weeks to dry out again. They are rapidly grown into large specimens with regular feeding." Feed about monthly from late spring to fall during warm weather. On field trips, Gates Society members and I have been thrilled to see Mams growing in their habitat. On Baja California trips, we have seen *Mammillaria dioica* (fish hook cactus), which has been seen in Anza Borego State Park. We also have seen the handsome fox tail cactus *Mammillaria alversonii* as named in Jaeger's book and later changed to *Coryphanta alversonii* and a few years ago changed again to *Escobaria alversonii*. This plant grows wild in the rocky washes of the Eagle Mountains, on the south side of Joshua Tree National Park. In the Whipple Mountains, near the Colorado River, we saw the small corkseed cactus, *Mammillaria tetrancistra*, growing out of rocks. These *Mammillarias* are federally protected plants, as are all cacti, and should not be dug up or collected in the wild. Other popular species found in succulent nurseries are *M. plumosa*, *M. bombycina*, *M. elongata*, *M. candida* and *M. hahniana*.

Mel Parks will bring some to sell. Bring in your choice specimens for the mini-show of *Mammillarias*. Also you can bring your un-named Mams for identification by knowledgeable cactophiles.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

ALOE

January 2007

by Dennis Kucera

The genus Aloe is a large variable group of about 460 species occurring in the wild throughout Africa, Madagascar, Canary Islands and Arabia. Botanist G.W. Reynolds researching the many Aloes in the wild traveled over 40,000 miles in 9 years to photograph and study these plants in the field to complete his two books, Aloes of South Africa and Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar. In 1966 he compiled a list of 324 species known at that time, and described them in his books. These books are in our Gates library. More new species have been discovered since.

Sheila Collonette a botanist with others has discovered over a dozen new species in the mountains of the southern part of the Arabian peninsula in the last 20 years. She had the use of a helicopter to fly up on top of steep inaccessible mountains sometimes over 9,000 feet elevation to discover many of them. These new Aloes are now growing at the Kew Gardens near London. Read about these discoveries in the C.S.S.A. journals; the first 2 issues of 2000 also in our library.

The Aloes have quite variable growth characteristics; grass like, single stemless rosettes of leaves, ground covers, pendant cliff plants, tall single stems with one rosette of leaves, shrubs and trees are among the species.

Aloe jucunda has very small leaves about 1 1/2 inches long, and forms dense low clumps. It is native to northern Somalia. Aloe bainesii the largest tree aloe is native to South Africa and Swaziland, and has leaves up to 36" long. It can become a many branched tree 60 feet high with a 3 foot trunk diameter. You can see these trees at the Huntington Gardens and U.C. Riverside Botanic Gardens.

Aloes were members of the lily family and are now members of the Aloe family with Haworthias and Gasterias. Hybrids between the three genera have occurred.

Another closely related genus to Aloe is Lomatophyllum, with about 15 species native to Madagascar. The main difference is the fruit are fleshy, juicy fruits for birds and other creatures to eat. Aloes have dry seed capsules with loose seeds. Also closely related to Aloes are the genera Astroloba and Poellnitzia.

Aloes have six lobed tubular flowers of many colors, red, orange, yellow, white and green depending on the species. These colorful flowers attract the sun birds in Africa who with their long bills reach down to the nectar at the base of the flower. In the Americas the hummingbirds find the Aloe flowers attractive. In southern California the Anna and Costa hummingbirds find the flowers an important food source of nectar, especially during the winter months when many Aloes bloom and other flowers are scarce.

The Aloe best known by most people is Aloe vera, is also known as Aloe barbadensis. Linnaeus, the father of modern botany, originally described this plant as a variety, Aloe perfoliata var. vera. Plants of A. vera were known in the first century A.D. In 512 A. D., Dioscorides Greek Herbal gave the medical qualities of this Aloe and included a colored illustration of a plant in bud. G. W. Reynolds says it appears that A. barbadensis occurred wild on the Cape Verde Islands, the Canary Islands and possibly Madiera. Very probably plants were then introduced by early Spaniards from the Canaries to the new world where the plant widely naturalized.

Aloe arborescens is a commonly planted species in parks and botanical gardens in California. It forms a dense shrub up to 15' high and has coral red to scarlet flowers December through February. In Africa it is a wide spread species growing in hilly and mountainous country, sea level to 7,000 feet elevation, from the western cape of South Africa, through Natal, Rhodesia and north to Victoria Falls.

There are many excellent miniature Aloes ideal for pot plants. One of the favorites is Aloe variegata, the partridge breast or tiger Aloe. It has 5 inch long leaves with green and white bands. This Aloe with loose flower clusters of pink to dull red, flowers intermittently all year. Other easy to grow miniature Aloes are A. aristata, A. brevifolia, A. jacksonii, A. jucunda, A. juvenna, A. harlanii, and A. rauhii.



Why is it that:

For every action, there is an equal & opposite government program.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.

http://www.desertmuseum.org/invasers/invasers_cactusmoth.htm

Argentine Cactus moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*)

What is it?

The Argentine Cactus Moth (aka *Cactoblastis cactus* moth) is a small (22-35 mm) grayish-brown moth. The larvae are 25-30 mm in length and bright orangish-red with large dark spots that form cross bands. In Florida there can be three generations in a year. The eggs are laid in a series of up to 140 that creates a chain, looking like a stick or spine on the surface of the prickly pear pad (cladode). Upon hatching the larvae burrow into the pad and begin feeding gregariously on the tissues. This feeding consumes the cladode completely and the larvae move to other ones before pupation.

Why is it a Threat?

As a natural feeder on prickly pears (*Opuntia* species) the caterpillars of this moth are capable of destroying plants and populations of these plants. Prickly pear cacti are popular in residential and commercial landscapes throughout the southwest US and Mexico. Additionally there is widespread and valuable commercial and traditional use of the plants in Mexico. *Opuntia* production of food for humans and livestock are the major uses. It is estimated between 2% of the value and production from agriculture in Mexico is from *Opuntia*.

Widespread invasion by this moth could lead to extensive destruction of natural *Opuntia* populations that serve as food for wildlife such as deer, javelina, rodents, and coyotes. Birds use prickly pears as nesting sites.

Distribution

The moth is native in the South American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

It was introduced into Australia in 1926 as a control for the invasive spread of prickly pears that had been introduced as animal fodder. Introduction has occurred in African, Asian and island countries since then.

The arrival in Florida may have natural dispersion from the West Indies or on imported plants.

Habitat

Suitable habitat in the U.S. has not been determined. It can live on many species of prickly pears, but it is not known whether it can tolerate the arid climate of the Southwest.

History

The moth is native to several South American countries. It was discovered in the Florida Keys in 1989 and has now spread north to South Carolina and east into Alabama.

What can be Done

Monitoring *Opuntia* in nurseries and home landscapes in the path of expansion of the range of *Cactoblastis* for evidence of infestation will be critical for early detection.

Research into control methods is being conducted, looking at chemical, biological and sterile insect techniques (SIT).

Control by available insecticides may be appropriate in nursery and small landscape settings, but not in widespread landscapes or agriculture.

Specific Biological Control agents (predators) have not been identified and study in the home range of the moth is continuing.

Sterile Insect Techniques is a process of releasing sterile males into a population, they breed with fertile females resulting in sterile eggs, thus fewer offspring.

Studies with this technique will take place in 2005

Links

[National Invasive Species Council "invasive species of the month" for March 2005](#)

[University of Florida Featured Creatures: the cactus moth](#)

[European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization \(EPPO\)](#)

[History of prickly pear invasion and control in Australia](#)

Article provided by Mike Green

The Gates Lotus Land Program

Produced by Daniel P. Griffith

Be a part of it!

I have been asked to present the June program for 2007. I will be giving a photographic montage of the clubs fieldtrip to Lotus Land that took place in the summer of 2006. If you went on this fieldtrip and took pictures, I would be proud to include some of your images. Please take your time in selecting your images. The limit is 20 per member so make them your best ones. The deadline for getting your work to me is the March meeting.

Images should be on a CD in jpeg format, image size must be 72 pixel/inch resolution and have no more than 800 pixels on the long side. Color or Black & White is welcome. Please include your name and phone # on the CD.

Together we will have a great display of our day at Lotus Land. This program will focus on showing prospective members as well as members just how much fun and how meaningful a fieldtrip can be. Participants in this program will have bragging rights to the fact that they were involved in presenting a program to the club!

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Photo Secrets Reveled

by Daniel P. Griffith

If you want to improve your photography the best place to begin is in the pages of the owner's manual that came with your camera. We all think, it's a camera, point it and it will take the perfect picture! Well my friends I am here to tell you good picture taking is just like good plant growing. It takes some reading and a lot of practice. Take a little time and read your owners manual. You will have most of your questions answered while reading the first time thru. I find it is helpful to reread my owners manual before each planned outing. Most models have a mini manual that will fit in your shirt pocket, carry it with you! Today's cameras are loaded with picture taking options that would stump any math professor, if he - she did not read the easy to understand book that came with the camera. Over the next year I hope to share what little I know about the subject of taking good pictures with you, the members of GC&SS. Remember, always carry extra batteries.

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