



Sweepstakes Winner

**January 2012  
Plants of the Month**  
 Cactus: Mammillaria  
 Clusters,  
 Succulent: African  
 Aloe species  
**Speaker:** Kelly Griffin,  
 new discoveries in  
 Madagascar  
**Save These Dates:**  
**TODAY** – Fill out the  
 Membership renewal  
 form at the end of this  
 newsletter and mail it  
 and your check to Karen.  
**January 14** - Desert  
 Forum at the Huntington  
 Botanical Gardens  
**January 17** – Workshop  
 at JMDC  
**January 28** – Aloe Walk  
 at JMDC  
**February 11** – San Diego  
 C&SS Winter Show  
**February 25** – Spring  
 Home Tour

# Open Gates

A publication of the  
**Gates Cactus & Succulent Society**  
 January 2012

**NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, January 5  
 7:00 PM**

**AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM  
 I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.**

**From the President:**

Those of you who have come to love our immediate Past President's sense of humor will probably find your new presidents "messages" pretty dry. But I will do my best to keep you informed about what is going on in our club. And yes I know Gates is a society. But I like to think of us as a club.

For starters, you will probably not see many immediate changes. Our club has been doing well and growing, slowly. About like our national economy. Your board views this growth as a positive thing and is discussing ways of attracting even more members. Our meeting agendas *have* been tweaked and modified a little during the last two years and you might well see further changes in the future. Your Board of Directors is now in serious discussions about how we can make our meetings and other activities even more useful and appealing to you, our members.

Along this line, you will be presented soon with a list of potential hands on workshop subjects and asked to indicate which ones you would like to see selected for development and presentation to our club. Please take this seriously and share your preferences with us. We need your input. To date, the more or less experimental workshops that have been held after our Board meetings at the Jurupa Center have not been well attended.

This is a shame because they have been very well done and informative. At least one was described by several people as the most informative and interesting presentation on growing mediums, watering and fertilizing of cactus and succulents they had ever attended.

We are now exploring several alternative ways of making these hands on workshops more accessible to you. Hopefully we will come up with ways to increase interest and attendance. If any of you have suggestions or ideas about this please share them with me or one of our board members.

Continued Page -2-

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**Leadership Team 2011**

## President's Message, Continued

We are also going to try the idea of an annual "things to do" calendar for inclusion in our club newsletter that will have suggestions on appropriate care for your plants during the month following each publication. We can all wait with bated breath for developments on this potentially useful project.

Along other lines, a home tour is being planned for February and for those of you who have never participated in these tours, I just want to say...You don't know what you have been missing. More specific information about this home tour will be forthcoming in a timely manner, but start thinking about setting Feb. 25th aside.

Other upcoming activities of interest are the Annual Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Learning Center. It is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th at 9:30 AM. This is a guided tour led by our own Buck Hemenway. If you have never experienced this spectacular display of a wide variety of Aloe blooms, all showing off at the same time, you won't want to miss this event.

Another, must do, event is the Huntington Gardens annual Desert Forum on Saturday January 14. This event is free to all Cactus Club members and includes unrestricted access to the entire Huntington facility for the whole day. You need to be able to prove that you are a member of a Cactus Club. Name Badge, newsletter will do. Saying these gardens are spectacular is an understatement and the succulent greenhouse, which is usually closed to the public, will be open to you on this special day. Registration is at 9:30 AM. Food is available to purchase but many people bring their own sack lunch to eat at a communal site where activities are usually included.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is looking forward to a great year for the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society.

Best Regards, Don

## MINI SHOW RESULTS 2011

### Total Points and Award Winners

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Tony Marino
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Rob Roy MacGregor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Carl & Edna Osborn
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Ann & John Reynolds
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Barry & Kim Urman
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Bob Laughlin
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	Joella Olson
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	Rene & Teresa Hernandez
9 <sup>th</sup> Place	Linda McConnell
10 <sup>th</sup> Place	Judy Horne
11 <sup>th</sup> Place	Karen & Chris Roholt
12 <sup>th</sup> Place	Line Marie Thrane

## January Speaker

Our presenter for January will be Kelly Griffin. Kelly is one of the world's experts on Agave and Aloe plants along with several other genera. He is involved in a life-long project to create new hybrid Aloe plants. He is a partner in Xeric Growers and works for Rancho Sloedad Nurseries.

Kelly travels the world seeking out new plant species and studying others. His recent trip to Madagascar uncovered three new species of Aloe. He will share that trip with us. His programs are always very entertaining and full of useful information. He will, of course bring many of his wonderful plants to sell.

## Recipes from the BBQ

As promised here are some of the recipes from the annual BBQ, held on October 29, 2011.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Teresa Hernandez' POLLO EN SALSA DE CHIPOTLE CON NOPALES

Serves: 5-6 people

INGREDIENTS:

4 Boneless skinless chicken breasts.

1/4 Cup of corn or vegetable oil.

1 Teaspoon of salt.

\*1 (30 OZ.) Jar of Nopalitos (drained and chopped in small pieces about 1 inch).

FOR THE SAUCE:

\*1 Can (7 oz.) chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

5 Roma Tomatoes

1 Clove of garlic

4 cloves

4 pepper corns

salt to taste

Grind 1 pepper and 2 tbs. of adobo sauce from the can with all of the other ingredients for the sauce until smooth. Strain the sauce and set it apart.

Dice the chicken breast in about 1 in. pieces and season with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a pot on medium heat and add the chicken; keep stirring it until its golden brown. Reduce the heat to low and add the sauce and nopales. Cook until the chicken pieces are tender (about 15 minutes).

Serve over white rice or mexican style rice.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kim Urman's Cactus Salsa

4 Tbs Salsa Saeasoning (H&H Brands, Inc. Salsa Seasoning)

1/2 cup cut cactus

28 oz. Diced tomatoes

Mix together and put in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is the time! Mail your 2012 membership fees to Karen. Be sure to fill in the renewal form in this Newsletter.

### Discussion Table

Bring your plants in for the discussion table. Bring something in bloom, some plant that you can't name or one that is doing some very weird stuff. We can all share.

Visit the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society at [www.gatescss.org](http://www.gatescss.org)

### Kitchen Duty for January 2012

No Sign Up  
Please help out.  
*Thank you!*

### Newman Achievement Award

The **Hazelle and Davis Newman Award** is given annually to a person or couple who have served the society with contributions of time and talent and have not been so honored before. One nomination letter was received. It follows.

*I nominate Yvonne Hemenway for the Hazelle and Davis Newman Award. She has been active in our club for many years and has become one of our go-to members for information and advice on caring for our plants. Yvonne works the sales booth at our annual show and sale and hosts the follow-up potluck. She has put together wonderful picnic lunches for field trips and let's not forget her killer cactus margaritas featured at our fall BBQ. Thanks, Yvonne, for your service to our club.*

Karen Roholt

### 2012 Plants of the Month

	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
January	Mammillaria clusters	African Aloe species
February	Eriocyse	Pelargonium, Monsonia
March	CA, NV, AZ Natives	Senecio, Othonna
April	Echinopsis	Euphorbia
May	Best Staged Cactus	Best Staged Succulent
June	Epiphytic Cacti	Pachypodium
July	Photograph	Photograph
August	South American Columnars	Caudiciform, Pachycaul
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Ariocarpus, Dead Plant	Aizoaceae (No Lithops), Dead Plant
November	Auction	
December	Christmas Party	

### 2012 Work Shops, To Be Announced

### WHERE TO FIND STUFF

**Your Gates Library.** The Library has most of the current authoritative publications on succulent genera. You need to be aware of the latest and most recognized publication on a specific genus. For example the New Cactus Lexicon, published in 2006, is currently the recognized authority on cacti. There are controversial genera that many do not agree with, but it is being used by all in the hobby. A book published in 1995 for example may not contain the same information.

We've added three new volumes in recent months, Aloes The Definitive Guide, Bushman's Candles (Sarcocaulon), and Echinocactus. There are more to come in 2012.

## CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2012

- January 14, 2012 – CSSA Free Day at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. Arrive prior to 10:00 AM
- January 28, 2012 – Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center. Starts at 9:30 AM sharp. 7621 Granite Hill Dr., Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
- February 11, 2012 – San Diego C&SS Winter Show and Sale. Balboa Park, San Diego. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- February 25, 2012 – Gates C&SS Home Tour – Tony & Trish Marino, Rob & Belinda MacGregor, Mike & Wendy Green – Details in February newsletter.



**T H E H U N T I N G T O N**  
LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108

## DESERT FORUM

*Saturday, 14 January 2012*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.      **Registration**  
Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag)
- 9:30 – 12:00 Noon      **Desert Garden**  
Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout  
the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory  
Aloes will be flowering
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.      **Welcome Comments & Lunch** – Friends' Hall  
Pick up sack lunch (if you dropped it off at registration)  
Light snacks and beverages will be served  
Welcome comments – Jim Folsom  
CSSA remarks – Laurel Woodley  
Note: Visitors have two other lunch options:  
- Huntington Café  
- Tea Room (reservations suggested: (626-683-8131))
- 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.      **Plant Sales**  
Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.  
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 P.M.      **Free Time**  
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries

#### **Don't miss:**

- "Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World" in Dibner Hall (Library building)  
*Liu Fang Yuan*, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)  
"The House that Sam Built" (Maloof) in Boone Gallery  
"Ancient Chinese Bronze Mirrors" in the Scott Gallery  
"Blue Sky Metropolis" in the Library, West Hall

## Mammillaria Clusters

By: Tom Glavich

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks, straight sharp spines, or feathery soft spines.

Although most Mammillaria are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most Mammillaria are easy to grow.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The white and densely spined species want full sun, and do best on a table unprotected (except from pro-longed heavy rain) all year long. The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (Mammillaria's worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of Mammillaria clusters is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix (pure pumice is even better). Rooting is rapid, with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. Mammillaria are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Best results are obtained when the seeds are started in late March to late May.



*Mammillaria baumii* is a densely spined species with wonderful large yellow flowers from Tamaulipas, Mexico



*Mammillaria duwei*, shown above, is from central Mexico.



*Mammillaria standleyii* can be found as either a single or clumping species, normal in cultivation. It is a rapid grower.

## African Aloe Species

Buck Hemenway

One of our favorite and easiest to grow genera of succulent plants is Aloe. This month's subject is plants that are native to Africa and are the named taxa of the genus. In other words a recognized sub species or variety qualifies, but not a hybrid made in any place other than habitat. As is the case with many spectacular plant genera, man has used and loved Aloe plants since the earliest of recorded time.

Aloe has been categorized along with and included in several plant families, including Liliaceae. There is still some controversy, but for now the genus Aloe is included in the family Aloaceae (1981) which is included in Asphodelaceae (1985).

Aloes range from among the smallest of succulents (*A. haworthioides*) to the very largest (*A. barbarae*) and more than 561 taxa are recognized in the newest work "Aloes, the Definitive Guide", published in 2010. This new book is considered to be a "must have" by serious Aloe collectors.

The African group of Aloes represents the majority of the genus. They grow from the north-eastern part of the continent to the southern tip and are most heavily concentrated in South Africa. They grow in places that are extremely arid, receiving just a few inches of rain per year to areas that receive more than 50 inches per year. Some receive winter rains only and some receive summer rains only. It is always useful to research your newly acquired plant to find out from which area it comes and care for it accordingly.

Aloes make wonderful landscape plans in Southern California. Their glorious blooms in winter add spectacular color to any succulent planting.

We find that aloes appreciate some watering, year round. They will respond more vigorously in their native growing season. Fast draining, coarse soil is the key to successful cultivation of Aloe plants. Depending on where they are from, some will take freezing without complaint, while others cannot stand even a close brush with 32 deg. Placement of Aloes in your landscape or in collection requires some knowledge of the natural distribution of the plant in your collection.

Pests are few, but need consideration. Mealy bugs need to be controlled, but Aloe Mite is the worst pest. You can find good information on Aloe Mite on our Gates web site by clicking the box "C&S Pests, What to do"



Aloe ferox blooms in late December through January.



Aloe arborescens provides regular January color



Aloe striata (Coral Aloe) bloom adds beauty to any garden



**GATES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**  
**New Member / Renewal**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse, S/O: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues:	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter delivered electronically		
	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter delivered by Mail		
	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Badge	\$ _____	<b>Total Paid</b>

**Mail to:** Karen Roholt - 835 Kentwood Dr., Riverside, CA 92507

From: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society  
5890 Grinnell Dr  
Riverside, CA 92509

FIRST CLASS MAIL