



*Gates Cactus
and
Succulent Society*

FEBRUARY 2009

NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " FEBRUARY 4th

AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.

PROGRAM

Our speaker for February is **Woody Minnich**. Woody is one of the most widely traveled explorer of cactus habitat in the world. His experiences and beautiful photography always makes for a wonderful show. His talk, this time is about the *Brazilian Highlands*. This region of South America is where many of our most prized collection plants come from. We are in for a real treat. Of course, he will bring

Buck Hemenway

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's now February, the last dregs of winter, and time to watch the ground: them hogs just might get a little wild. And you know you'd just love that. So much for Groundhog Day and Valentines Day. Hope everyone enjoyed the Desert Forum, Quartzite and the Aloe walk.

Three out of four Saturdays in one month. I hope I don't see my shadow. If it's dark enough, I'll try and catch up on sleep. This Wednesday our speaker will be some guy named Woody Minich. Apparently, he spends a lot of time wandering around looking at cactus, and lately some succulents. Don't know what travelogue he'll present this time, but they usually are at least entertaining. Pictures of those little Adeniums obesums (now *Cameraria obesa*) we see in 6 inch pots all grown up to one meter (39") diameter and 5 meters tall. Now, if only ours would grow that well. A minor word of warning: Green Faire and our annual Show and Sale are May 9th: nearly a month earlier than last year. Start thinking about what YOU will show. See you Wednesday evening.

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LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2009

FIELD TRIPS

We have had two wonderful field trips in January. The first was the CSSA day at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Just a beautiful day weather-wise. The plants and the gardens are in fabulous condition. Nearly all of the aloes are in bloom. They, The Huntington, plan to continue to offer a Desert Forum to CSSA members in future years, it is an experience not to be missed.

Many of us know that Joella Olson suffered a small fainting spell. She recovered nicely. Yvonne drove her to our house and after a few hours, they all decided that Joella was in fine shape to continue home.

The second trip was to Quartzsite. There were 15 people on the trip using one van and Manny's car. We took a side trip to a place called Corn Springs, off of the I-10, just past Desert Center. Fabulous cacti and ocotillos, plus incredible petroglyphs. We're driving along and Isabelle Moon says "What's That?" So we stopped and took hundreds of pictures. The old Saguaros are still there just west of Quartzsite and we had lunch there as we did in 2006.

See Field Trip pictures at www.gatescss.org.

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HAZELLE & DAVIS NEWMAN AWARD.

At the December 2008 Meeting we voted **Frank Nudge** this years winner of the Award.

The Award* was presented during the January 2009 Meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS FRANK NUDGE

* The award, after engraving, was glued onto a special desert wood base made up by Helen Hughes.
Thanks Helen.

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MINI-SHOW RESULTS for JANUARY 2009 SUCCULENTS ALOE

Rene Hernandez and Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE

- 1st Lynn Thrane
- 2nd Lynn Thrane
- 2nd Lynn Thrane
- 3rd Lynn Thrane

- LARGE, pot over 6" wide
- X Aloe "Blue Elf"
- Aloe ferox
- X Aloe "California"
- Aloe marlothii

INTERMEDIATE

- 2nd Judy Horne
- 3rd Carlos Ruiz
- 3rd Carlos Ruiz
- H.M. Karen Roholt

- small, pot 6" or less
- X Aloe 'Doran Black'
- X A. Meyerii
- Aloe humilis
- Aloe haworthioides
- Aloe brevifolia

INTERMEDIATE

- 1st Karl D. Osborne Sr.
- 2nd Judy Horne
- 2nd M.J.Green
- 3rd Karen Roholt
- 3rd Carlos Ruiz
- 3rd M.J. Green

- LARGE, pot over 6" wide
- Aloe sinkatana
- Aloe species
- Aloe cv. "Winter Sky"
- Aloe jacksonii
- Aloe Suzanae
- Aloe wubigewia ?

- 3rd Karl D. Osborne Sr. Aloe "Blue Boy"

ADVANCED

- 1st Tom Vermilian
- 2nd Dennis Kucera
- 2nd Joella Olson
- 3rd Tom Vermilian
- H.M. Dennis Kucera
- H.M. Joella Olson
- H.M. Joella Olson
- H.M. Bob Laughlin
- H.M. Tony Marino
- H.M. Bertie Lou Hazell
- H.M. Tom Vermilian

- small, 6" pot or less
- Aloe "Pink Blush"
- Aloe taurii
- Aloe dorothea
- Aloe "Spikey"
- Aloe descoingsii hybrid
- Gasteraloe Hybrid
- Aloe species
- Aloe variegata
- Aloe "Pepe"
- Aloe species
- Aloe hemingii

ADVANCED

- 1st Dennis Kucera
- 1st Buck and Yvonne
- 1st Buck and Yvonne
- 1st Bob Laughlin
- 2nd Bob Laughlin
- 2nd Tony Marino
- 3rd Tom Vermilian
- 3rd Bob Laughlin
- H.M. Bertie Lou Hazell

- LARGE, OVER 6" POT
- Aloe sinkatana
- Aloe cv. R.F.G.
- Aloe dorothea
- Aloe suprafoliata
- Aloe species
- Aloe congolensis
- Aloe sinkatana
- Aloe species
- Aloe brevifolia

H.M. Bertie Lou Hazell Aloe species
H.M. Bertie Lou Hazell Aloe brevifolia Var.

MINI-SHOW RESULTS for JANUARY 2009
CACTI CEPHALOCEREUS
CLEISTOCACTUS PILOSOCEREUS

Rene Hernandez and Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Phu Hunyh Cephalocereus senilis

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
1st Karl D. Osborn Sr. Cephalocereus senilis
2nd Carlos Ruiz Cleistocactus species

INTERMEDIATE LARGE over 6" pot
1st Judy Horne Cephalocereus senilis
1st Karl D. Osborn Sr. Pilosocereus azureus
2nd Karen Roholt Pilosocereus azureus
3rd M.J. Green Cleistocactus species

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Tony Marino Pilosocereus gounelli
2nd Dennis Kucera Cephalocereus senilis
2nd Buck and Yvonne Cleistocactus winterii
2nd Buck and Yvonne Cleistocactus viridiflorus
3rd Joella Olson Cleistocactus samaipatanus
3rd Bertie Lou Hazell Cephalocereus species

MINI-SHOW RULES

This show is open to all members. The 3 levels are **Novice**, blue form, **Intermediate**, pink form after 2 years of active participation, and **Advanced**, white form after 4 years of active participation or when you feel comfortable to move up to the next level.

You may enter NO more than 4 plants. They can be any combination of all cactus or all succulents, or all large or all small, any mix up to four plants.

Novice judges will be chosen by and work with *Dennis Kucera*. Show results will be published in the following months OG Newsletter.

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Our Best Wishes to holders of these February Birthdays.

- 2/05 Greg McKinley (48)
- 2/06 Terry Ann Menees (61)
- 2/06 Tony Marino (41)
- 2/07 Tom Brooks (83)
- 2/12 Joyce Rasse (76)
- 2/14 Clara Jones (65)
- 2/19 John O'Kane (46)
- 2/20 Christina Anderson (53)
- 2/21 Blanca Wilkey (??)
- 2/24 Ann Platzer (77)



This month we salute Tom Brooks his 83nd BD.

Again, look at all the seniors still attending, how wonderful! And Happy Birthday to you!



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the Colemans and Marinos on their Very Special Day.

- 2/22 Jill & Brooks Coleman (29)
- 2/27 Tony & Trish Marino (10)



Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs?"

OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Discussion, and Refreshments Tables will be reopened for the January 2009 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. Here's 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!

Book Review

Title: Namaqualand and the Richtersveld, Nature's Spectacular Canvas – Volume 1
Author: Martin P. Heigan
Available at: www.amazon.com
Price: \$79.95 @ www.amazon.com, \$65.95 @ www.blurb.com

The author's final line "go where the air is clean and the streets have no names..." perfectly describes this fantastic part of our world and his exquisite pictorial review of the flora of Namaqualand. Tucked in the Northwest corner of South Africa, this semi-desert region is home to a dazzling array of plant life. Mr. Heigan's book brings the spring blooming season to life. It's a small book at 78 pages, but the quality of the photography is excellent and his descriptions and local knowledge anecdotes are interesting and thought provoking. As a traveler to this far away place, I highly recommend this invitation for more.

Buck Hemenway

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2009

ECHINOPSIS includes *Trichoceus*,
Lobivia

By Dennis Kucera

Botanists now have combined the 3 genera into one genus. This makes a large group of over 100 species of extremely variable in size. The peanut cactus *E. Chamaecereus*, syn. *Chamaecereus silvestrii* with ½ inch thick stems to the giant Fat Boy, *E. terscheckii*, syn. *Trichocereus terscheckii*, is a columnar cactus growing up to 39 feet with an 18 inch thick trunk. The plants in this expanded genus have many straight ribs with many spiny close set areoles lining the ribs with deep furrows between the ribs. These plants have relatively large trumpet shaped flowers in spring or summer. These plants are native mostly to Argentina, Bolivia and southern Brazil. Some of the more common species in gardens are listed below.

E. backebergii, (syn. *Lobivia backebergii*) is a clump forming cactus with 2 inch oval stems. In summer it may have red or violet 2 inch flowers. It comes from E. Bolivia.

E. candicans, (syn. *Trichocereus candicans*,) is a clump forming plant with cylindrical, light green stems to 2 feet tall and 6 inches thick. In summer it has large fragrant flowers at night. It comes from W. Argentina.

E. chamaecereus, (syn. *Chamaecereus sylvestrii*,) is the peanut cactus with white spines on short ½ inch thick stems. In summer it will produce orange to scarlet flowers 3 inches long.

E. Cinnabarina, (syn *Lobivia, cinnabarina*,) is a single stem spherical cactus 6 inch thick. In Spring and summer it may have rich scarlet 1 ½ inch wide flowers. It comes from Bolivia.

E. Ferox, (syn. *Lobivia ferox*,) is a solitary plant with round, pale green stems to 12 inches thick. White pink 4 inch flowers are produced in summer.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2009 CRASSULA, TYLECODON AND COTYLEDON

By Dennis Kucera

E. hauscha, (syn *Trichocereus huascha*.) is a clumping, usually erect cactus to 3 feet high with 2 to 3 inch dark green stems with yellow areoles. In summer they have 4 inch golden yellow or red flowers. It is from Argentina.

E. maximiliana, (syn. *Lobivia caespitosa*.) is a clump forming cactus with round or cylindrical, light green stems 3 inches thick. In summer they have 3 inch red flowers with orange yellow throats. This species comes from S. Peru and N. Bolivia.

E. oxygena, (syn. *E. multiplex*.) is our favorite Easter Lilly Cactus. It is a clustering plant with round or cylindrical, mid green stems to 8 inches thick, offsetting at the sides. In summer it produces spectacular flowers with 8 inch stems up to 5 inches across. Usually pink or white. The Huntington Gardens has released many wonderful hybrids of this plant with vibrant colors pink, orange, yellow, red, magenta, purple and combinations of colors.

E. pentlandii, (syn. *Lobivia pentlandii*.) is a clump forming cactus with round or oval green stems, 6 inches thick, In spring or summer it has yellow orange, pink, purple or red flowers, 3 inches long with white throats. It comes from S. Peru and N. Bolivia.

E. Schickendantzii, (syn. *Trichocereus shaaferi*.) is a shrub like cactus with cylindrical green stems 2 ½ inch thick stems to 12 inches tall. White flowers to 8 inches long develop in spring and summer. It comes from W. Argentina.

E. spachiana, (syn. *Trichocereus spachianus*.) is a large clump forming cactus. This species is not found native in S. America, but is common in California gardens, This plant is a hybrid of unknown origin that grows easily in our gardens. It has cylindrical stems to 6 feet high with 10 to 15 ribs with numerous lines of yellowish areoles. It has large 8 inch fragrant white flowers at night in mid summer.

The family **Crassulaceae** includes about 30 genera, 1,500 species of annual to mostly perennial succulent herbs and shrubs. They are widely distributed through-out the world especially in temperate regions. Some of the better known genera in this family are; *Adromischus*, *Aeonium*, *Cotyledon*, *Crassula*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Graptopetalum*, *Kalanchoe*, *Monanthes*, *Pachyphytum*, *Rochea*. *Sedum* *Sempervivum*, and *Tacitus*.

The genus **Crassula** includes over 300 species of succulent, mostly perennial herbs native mostly to Africa especially South Africa. The leaves are opposite each other being united around the stem. They have no leaf stems. The flowers are usually 5 parted, white to red or yellowish, in large clusters of small flowers. Some of the more commonly grown species are;

C. arborescens known as the silver jade plant or silver dollar. This glabrous shrub can grow to 10 feet The leaves are up to 3 inches long and are gray with red margins, conspicuously dotted. It is native to S. Africa.

C. argentea or more recently known as *C. ovata*, is the jade tree or jade plant It has glossy elliptical medium green leaves to 1 ½ inch leaves with red margins. The flower clusters are white or pink and freely flower outdoors in So. California. Cultivars called *Pacifica tricolor* and *variegata* are listed.

C. falcata is called the airplane plant, sickle plant and scarlet paintbrush It is shrub up to 2 ½ feet high with sickle shape 3 inch long silver gray leaves. The inflorescence is a dense cyme of numerous bright red flowers.

C. muscosa (*lycopodioides*) is called the moss crassula, rattail crassula, toy cypress and watch

chain. The numerous upright stems to 2 feet have a woody base. The stem has 4 rows of light green scale like leaves.

C. multicava is freely open branching perennial succulent with gray green oval leaves 1 to 3 inches long. It produces star shaped light pink flowers in an open clusters.

C. perforata is called the string of buttons, and grows into a small shrub to 2 feet. The opposite leaves are united surrounding the stem.

C. tetagona, called the miniature pine tree and turnstile plant forms a glabrous shrub to 2 feet. Awl shaped leaf pairs alternate in direction.

C. rupestris, is called the bead vine, necklace vine and rosary plant. It has roundish leaves about 1/2 inch diameter on long pendulous stems.

The genus **Cotyledon** has about 35 species of compact often clump forming, perennial succulents. They are native to the deserts of E. Africa, southern Africa and the Arabian peninsula.

C. ladismithensis is a many branched small shrub with 2 inch long green leaves with 2 to 4 soft teeth. In fall it has clusters of brownish red tubular flowers 1/2 inch long.

C. undulata, now named **C orbiculata v. oblonga**, is a small shrub of many branches with large wedged shaped leaves. The cultivar 'silver queen' has silver leaves with a wavy apex. It is native to the Cape province of S. Africa. The more common C. orbiculata is a shrubby erect freely branching succulent with thick fleshy branches. It has spade shaped white or gray leaves are 5 inches long. It has open clusters of tubular red flowers on stems up to 2 feet long.



DUES ARE DUE

Time again to pay up. Our membership runs from January 1 to December 31

The yearly dues are \$20 Bucks. You get a discount if you take our newsletter, the "Open Gates," by email. The dues are then \$15 Bucks.

To make it easier on me, and to pick up mistakes on our mailing list, I'll have some renewal slips at the Meeting. Please fill one out when you renew. There is a place for your e-mail address.

Save Five Bucks, receive "The **Open Gates** Newsletter" by e-mail. You'll receive it earlier (maybe, even on time!), pictures will be in color and you and our Society will save \$5 Bucks.

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Bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

Nothing to do with cactus or succulents but interesting!

2009 MINI-SHOW PLANTS

Preliminary List, Subject to Change

JANUARY Aloe, Pilosocereus, Cliestocactus
Cephalocereus

FEBRUARY Crassula, Cotyledon, Tylecodon,
Echinopsis, includes Trichocereus
And Lobivia

MARCH Aeonium. hooked spined Mammillaria

APRIL Haworthia, Gasteria, Ferocactus,
Echinocactus

MAY Succulents and cacti, crested,
variegated, monstrose or oddball

JUNE PHOTOS of cacti and or succulents,
4 each, And Your favorite or best
cactus or succulent, well staged, 1 ea.

JULY Portulacaria, Anacampseros,
Echinocereus.

AUGUST Dish Gardens and Planters, cactus
and or succulents.

SEPTEMBER Agaves and relatives, **Monotypic
Cacti***, - one species per genus. See list

OCTOBER Euphorbia, Opuntia, Dead cactus or
Dead succulent.

*MONOTYPIC GENERA OF CACTI

Bergerocactus emoryi, Blossfeldia liliputana,
Brachycereus nesioticus, Calymmanthium substerile,
Caregia gigantea, Clintia knizeii, Denmoza
rhodacantha, Escontria chiotilla, Estopstoopsis
dybowskii, was Austrocephalocereus, Geohintonia
mexicana, Isolatocereus dulmortieri, Jasminocereus
thouarsii, Leocereus bahiensis, Leuchenbergia
princiis, Mammilloidya candida, Mila caespitosa,
Miqueliopuntia miquelii, Obregonia denegrii,
Ortegocactus macdougallii, Rauhocereus
riosaniensis was Browningia riosaniensis,
Samaipaticereus corroanus, Stetsonia coryne,
Strombocactus disciformis, and Yungasocereus
inquisivensis, originally Samaipaticereus
inquisivensis.

Calendar of Garden Events - 2009

***January 31** Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center
7621 Granite Hill Dr. Glen Avon, CA. 9-10:30
951-685-5818

***March 28-29** The Hemenway's 9th annual Open
Gardens and Sale, 9-4 Sat & Sun,
5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 951-360-8802

***April 18-19** Redlands Horticulture & Improvement
Society 97th Flower Show & Garden Tour, ESRI Café,
370 New York St., Redlands, CA. Wwww.rhis.org

***May 9** Gates C&SS Show and Sale, 9-5, Jurupa
Mountains Cultural Center 7621 Granite Hill Dr. Glen
Avon, CA. 951-685-5818

***May 9** Green Faire, 9-5, Jurupa Mountains Cultural
Center 7621 Granite Hill Dr. Glen Avon, CA.
951-685-5818

And one more

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg." (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

Might explain the prices of some cactus!