



*Gates Cactus  
and  
Succulent Society*

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**MAY 2008**

**NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " 7:30PM " MAY 7th**

**AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM**

**I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.**

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**PROGRAM**

Our speaker for May is **Guillermo Rivera**. He is a PHD botanist from Argentina and has become one of the leading experts on South American cacti. He will be presenting "Cacti from Central Brazil: Minas Gerais and Bahia State." He owns South American Cactus Expeditions and takes guided plant tours throughout South America. Guillermo spoke to us about two years ago on Trichocereus, and absconded with several Gates members for some very interesting tours of different areas in South America

Prior to the recent spate of lumpers, there were over 50 genera of cacti found in Brazil. The most well known are the Ubelmania and Pilosocereus. Join us Wednesday evening for this interesting presentation. It should be an excellent show as have his previous shows.

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Well, it's May and nearly time for triple digits. Calloused Euphorbias can be planted and rooted or vice versa, cactus seeds can be planted, and wasps can pollinate... Wasps? not bees? I'm used to bees, humming birds etc pollinating, but recently wasps, yellow jackets specifically, were finding my Euphorbia millii quite attractive. Learn something new all the time.

If your spring cleanup's not finished, watch out. It's nearly June and the annual Gate's Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale is coming up on June 14th. With all the new members, this SHOULD be a great show with more plants than ever. Start plotting now which categories you wish to dominate. Trophies from last year should be surrendered at this months meeting. Best Succulent in Show, Best Ferocactus and Best Haworthia are still missing in action. Recovery

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operations hopefully won't be needed(?).

Show rules and categories will be forthcoming. Pots, top dressing and plants can be amassed at your personal staging area for a frontal assault on the show tables probably starting the 12th. AND, help is on the way at the June meeting ten days before the show with a presentation on show plants.

Coming up August 9th is our voyage to the Wrigley Gardens on Catalina. We have 25 spots spoken for so far, and Ina is booking only 40. Sign up now if you're interested. You can opt out when the final details are in, but I'm not sure you can opt in then. Should be a fun one day trip.

See you Wednesday! *mjg*



## MINI-SHOW SUBJECTS FOR MAY 2008

### PLANTS MUST BE ON THE TABLE BY 7:15

YOUR 2 BEST STAGED PLANTS, IN ANY COMBINATION, CACTUS AND OR OTHER SUCCULENTS, IN SPECIAL POTS, LARGE SIZE, Get them ready for our big show on Saturday June 14, 2008.

### OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Discussion, and Refreshments Tables will be open for the May 2008 Meeting.

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

If you can, bring some 'Goodies' to support our popular *Refreshment Tables*.

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

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR APRIL 2008

### SUCCULENTS PELARGONIUM, SARCOCAULON AND RELATIVES

*Ron Lang and Dennis Kucera judging*

**NOVICE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Carlos Rios Sarcocaulon vanderietiae

**INTERMEDIATE** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Judy Horne Pelargonium laxum

**ADVANCED** small, 6" pot or less  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joella Olson Pelargonium hirsutum  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Laughlin Pelargonium species  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joella Olson Sarcocaulon inerme  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joella Olson P. Cv. Bernice Ladroot  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joella Olson Pelargonium carnosum  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Laughlin Sarcocaulon vanderietiae  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barry, Kim Urman Sarcocaulon hererae

**ADVANCED** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Kucera Pelargonium laxum

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## MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR APRIL 2008 CACTUS

### EPIPHYLLUM, SCHLUMBERGERA

*Ron Lang and Dennis Kucera judging*

**NOVICE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Don, Mary Alice McGrew Schlumbergera sp.

**NOVICE** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> D & M A McGrew Epiiphyllum species  
2<sup>nd</sup> D & M A McGrew Schlumbergera sp.

**ADVANCED** small, 6" pot or less  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lyn Brooks Rhipadelphus rosea

**ADVANCED** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Tony Marino Selenicereus anthonianus  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bertie Lou Hazell Epiphyllum species

## 2008 MINI-SHOW PLANTS

- MAY Your best staged cactus and succulent in a special pot, 1 each.
- JUNE Succulents and Cactus; variegated, crested, monstrose, and odd ball, 4 max.
- JULY Succulents; Bromelia family, Dychia, Abromiatella, Hechtia, Tillandsi  
Cactus; Astrophytum, Gymnocalycium
- AUGUST DISH GARDENS, PLANTERS; Cactus and or Succulents, PHOTOGRAPHS
- SEPTEMBER Succulents; Pachypodium Adenium, Plumeria, Cactus; Copiapoa, Coryphantha
- OCTOBER Succulents; Stapelia, Huernia, Hoodia, and relatives  
Cactus; Melocactus
- NOVEMBER ANNUAL AUCTION

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Visit the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society at:

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

And for more info on the Program Subject: Brazilian Cacti, with photos

[http://www.brcactaceae.org/e\\_index.html](http://www.brcactaceae.org/e_index.html)



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Our Very Best Birthday Wishes to each and every member on this long list:

- 5/01 Eva Dye (68)  
5/01 Jodee Towar (50)  
5/02 Cidni Griffith (46)  
5/03 Marilyn Newcomer (74)  
5/03 Kaled Spencer (32)  
5/04 Betty Ann Kent (71)  
5/13 Lillian Pickoff (87)  
5/13 Bertie Lou Hazell (79)  
5/21 Manny Michelson (76)  
5/26 Valesa Dwyer (54)  
5/27 Lyn Brooks (75)  
5/31 Chris Roholt (63)

*Happy Birthdays you all. We take special pride in these senior members who are still active in the Society. Especially Bertie Lou Hazell at 78. Way to go! And look at all the other Senior Discounts this month! A Special Wish to Lillian Pickoff on her 87th.*

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES.

Many happy returns to these Members.  
Does membership increase happiness? and longevity?

- 5/22 Shirley & Don Zeber (49)  
5/26 Alice & Leon Beardsley (44)



## HOST/HOSTESS DUTY THIS MONTH

MAY 2008

Manny Michaelson & Norman Navarre have graciously accepted the responsibility for the operation of the kitchen and refreshment tables for this Meeting. It is a lot of work so help where you can. Thanks.

## **It Works for Me**

**By: Harvey Welton**

### **WATER**

All, yes ALL plants need water. Even drought tolerant plants need water to survive. Drought tolerant does not mean that they never need water. Ah yes I can hear it now – “But I plant my cactus in the ground and never water them and they are doing fine.”

Let’s examine a few factors that may account for the fact that you never water and your plants are doing well.

Where do you live? First scenario – You may live in an area where you have neighbors close by and they may not be cactus lovers so they have a lawn. If that is the case you should thank them for watering your cactus. What is happening is that your cacti are sending out long roots and are enjoying the water that soaks into the ground as a result of the lawn next door being watered.

Second scenario – You may live near the coast/ocean/body of water and often have fog or heavy dew. That moisture condenses on the plants. Some is absorbed by the plant through the areoles and skin of the plant. If any moisture falls on the ground near the plant it is absorbed by the plant’s roots and waters the plant.

There are endless other scenarios that we could explore but the real questions are how do I determine when the plants need water and how do I water in this nursery? Personally I have found that the most reliable water meter is the end of my finger. If the soil around the plant is damp I don’t water. If it is dry I water. If it is a question of whether to water or not I always choose not.

When I say water I mean that the root ball of the plant is completely saturated with water. If the plant is growing in a container, particularly if it happens to be root bound, it will probably have to be watered several times the same day to

accomplish this. I prefer to water by hand with a watering wand. This allows me to water each plant individually. The reason for this is that some plants will use more or less water than their neighbor depending on the time of year and a number of other factors. Watering by hand forces me to look at each individual plant. This in turn allows me to evaluate the individual plant’s health, need for fertilizer and check to see if there are any insects or other pathogens that may be attacking the plant.

There are a myriad of factors that affect the amount of water a plant needs so let me briefly discuss some of them starting with seeds and seedlings. Cactus seeds must be kept damp for germination.

After the seeds germinate they must still be kept moist until the roots are long enough to reach the moisture in the bottom of the seed container. When the seedlings develop the secondary characteristics, areoles and thorns, the plants are beginning to store water so they can be allowed to briefly dry out.

Generally speaking the larger the plant the longer it will be able to survive without water. Of course temperature, humidity or lack thereof, and sunlight all affect the plant’s need for water. The watering schedule at my nursery is varied according to the time of year and temperature. Generally, during the summer months, the plants are watered weekly. Spring and fall watering schedule is approximately every other week and is often slightly more or less depending on the temperature and rainfall. During the winter months I rarely water the plants after the last week in November and often withhold water until the middle of February. There are several reasons for this long dry period. First, the lack of water will force the plants to stop growing. In our area it is not unusual to have several nights of freezing weather. If the plants are not growing they are less susceptible to freeze damage. The second reason is that the plants will bloom more profusely when the weather warms up and they begin to grow again if they have a dormant period. I use Valentine’s Day as the reminder

that I need to begin to water. The plants deserve a little tender loving care after that long rest. The days are getting longer and, in most cases, the danger of a severe freeze is past.

I try to water the entire nursery in a couple of days. One week later I water and fertilize the entire nursery using a water soluble, balanced fertilizer. The reason for watering first then fertilizing is the plants are no longer very thirsty so they will take in the fertilizer solution more slowly. If the plants are very dry they will rapidly absorb as much of the water/ fertilizer solution as the plant can hold. This in turn may generate a growth spurt that could cause the epidermis of the plant to split, leave the plant at best scarred and at worst vulnerable to fungus or other pathogens that could kill the plant.

A specimen that is planted in the ground needs to be watered until it is firmly established. In the case of taller plants I suggest that they be watered deeply and regularly for at least the first two years they are in the ground. Deeply here is the key word. Water the plants slowly so that the damp area extends well below the bottom of the longest tap root. This will assure that the plant grows roots long enough to support the plant when it gets tall. As a side benefit is that when you reduce the watering after it is established the plant will have a greater chance of remaining vibrant and healthy.

Of course there are exceptions to all rules and in all cases common sense should prevail. For example there are some plants that we have that came from South Africa and grow in our winter. They may need to be watered during the winter. They should also, if possible, kept warm. In the case of flora that is not from our latitudes try to determine if that particular plant has acclimated to our seasons or not and treat it accordingly.

Last and most important – enjoy your plants.  
*Harvey*

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## SHOW TROPHIES

Please bring your winning trophy from the 2007 Show to the May Meeting

## Calendar of Garden Events - 2008

**\*May 3-4** Sunset Succulent Society , Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, 4117 Overland Ave. Culver City, CA. 310-822-1783

**\*May 18** Huntington Plant Sale, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 626-485-2160

**\*May 18** Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, LA Co. Arboretum, Arcadia, CA 310-670-8148

**\*June 14** Green Faire and Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Jurupa Mt. Cultural Center, Glen Avon, CA 951-360-8802

**\*June 14-15** LA Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Bl., Encino, CA. 818-363-3432

**\*June 27-29** CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington BG, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626-405-2160 or 2277. Show- 28-29; Plant Sales 27-29

**\*July 25-27** Orange County Summer Show & Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA. 714-870-4887.

## Welcome Our New Members

*Kaled Spencer* April 2008  
*Riverside, CA*

*Richard Block* April 2008  
*Riverside, CA*

*Matt Pogan* April 2008  
*Riverside, CA*

Let them know the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society appreciates their Membership. Help them with their concerns. Tell them about our upcoming Show & Sale. Solve their issues. That's why they came to see us!

Most of all **TALK TO THEM!!**

# Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Home Garden Tour

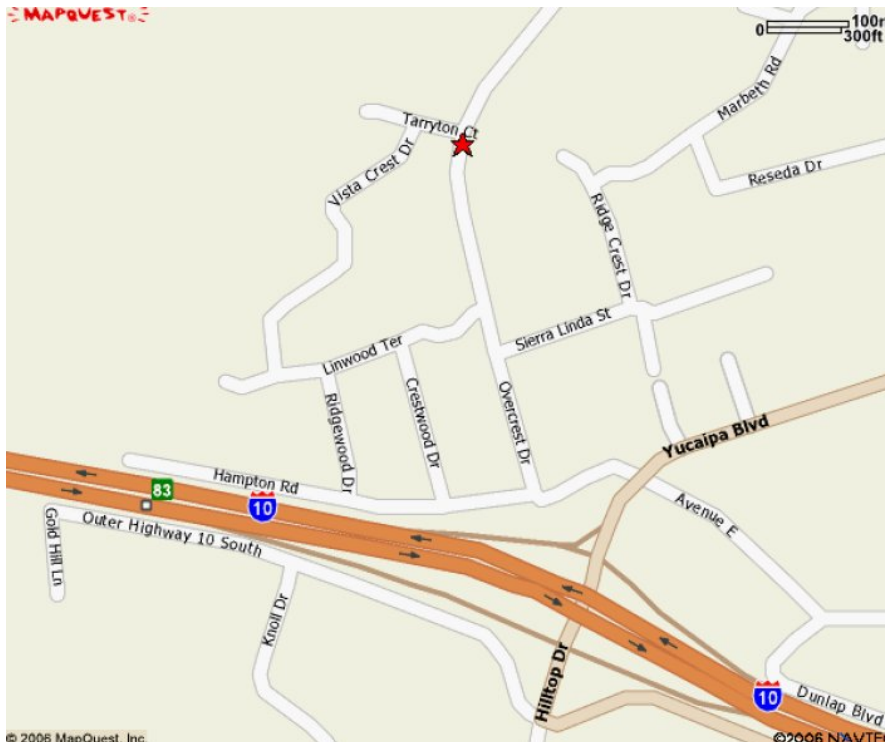
## Saturday, May 24, 2008



Arrival at 9:30 AM  
 Dan & Cidni Griffith  
 991 E. Base Line Rd.  
 San Bernardino , CA  
 (909) 884-6819

Arrival 10:45 AM  
 Leon & Alice Beardsley  
 1523 Mountain View Ave,  
 San Bernardino, CA  
 909-885-0573

Use Highway 30 from either I-215 or I-10. Exit south on Del Rosa or Waterman to Base Line and turn right or left.



**JERRY and JUDY HORNE'S**  
 12212 Overcrest Dr.  
 Yucaipa, CA 92399

Arrival 12:00 noon

Directions:

Driving east or west on I-10 east of Redlands, exit at Yucaipa Blvd. Turn north and immediately turn left on Hampton Rd. Mobil gas and Chevron on the right and left side. Go to Overcrest, turn right to 12212.

# **Gates Cactus & Succulent Society**

## **33rd Annual Show and Sale**

**June 14, 2008**

**From 9:00AM till 5:00PM**



**Held At**

**Green Faire 2008**

**Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center**

7621 Granite Hill Dr.

Riverside, CA

951-685-5818 for Information

**Children's Activity Table**

**Plant a garden for \$1.00 (Kids Only)**

**Buy Plants from  
The Grower**

Member Growers on hand  
Selling Plants

**Judged Show  
Cacti and Succulents**

More than 400 rare and  
Exotic Plants on Display

**Other Plant Societies**

and related groups Selling Plants  
and offering advice

San Bernardino County Master Gardeners  
Inland Empire Iris Society  
California Rare Fruit Growers  
Orchid Society  
Riverside County Master Gardeners

**Granite Hill  
Gardens Nursery**

Offering a Wide array of  
rare and unusual Cacti &  
Succulents

